SPORTS / A34

Pagunsan posts 2nd victory in 3 weeks at PGAP Challenge

METRO / A25

Case filed vs Manila police homicide chief for theft of cash, jewelry in Dalaig murder

ACROSS / A17

Gov. Ed goes to DOJ in fight vs mayors to control millions in quarry taxes

BUSINESS / B1

Congressional body questions PNOC-EDC sale to Lopez group

Mother of all Swiss knives is three pounds, $1,200

TOOTHBRUSH NA LANG ANG KULANG!

ORANGEBURG, NEW York—You would not want to use it to carve a Thanksgiving turkey, but if you need to push a cuticle, measure a tire tread, clean a golf

MOTHER/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, November 23, 2007 ★★ 14 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 348 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Lacson: Romero not suspect but victim

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A DAY AFTER CLAIMING THAT businessman Reghis Romero II could have been used as a conduit for the cash gifts handed out to governors in Malacañang last month, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the housing and port magnate was a "victim" and not a "suspect" in the Senate probe.

Lacson's virtual about-face came after the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board denied his claim that the HLURB had deposited P500 million into Romero's account in Bank of Commerce (BOC) that was used for the cash gifts.

Lacson said that in Wednesday's joint Senate inquiry into the cash gifts distributed on Oct. 11 he was just "trying to connect the P500 million released by the DBM as part of the (P3 billion) collectible of Romero and (the fact) that he is a client of BOC."

"That's why I'm trying to tie this all up, the possibility that the cash distributed in Malacañang came from that. I'm treating Mr. Romero not as a suspect here but as a possible victim of extortion," Lacson said.

Romero is the chair and founder of R-II Builders Inc., the construction company that undertook to build for the NHA low-cost housing for residents of the Smokey Mountain dump in Manila.

The senator had earlier called the purported HLURB disbursement to

LACSON/ A10

GMA pardons soldier jailed for Ninoy murder

By Julie M. Aurelio and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PABLO MARTINEZ HAD FORGOTTEN how even ordinary dishes tasted like, until he stepped out yesterday of the New Bilibid Prisons a free man, pardoned by President Macapagal-Arroyo after he was imprisoned 24 years ago for the murder of opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino.

Together with his wife Fede and six children, the former master sergeant was taken to a sumptuous lunch tendered by his lawyers at the Bayview Park Hotel in Manila.

The menu included *pakbet*, *caldereta*, chicken curry, *morcon*—dishes Martinez had not tasted since his incarceration.

"They are all delicious, I don't

GMA PARDONS/ A20

1M Bicol folk told to flee

EDWIN BACASMAS

THE ISSUE IS CORRUPTION: The World Bank's probe of the bid rigging and overpricing is done but it's not yet ready to disclose the contents of its report, say the bank's country director Maryse Gautier (center) and Peter Stephens (right), communications director for East Asia-Pacific, during a joint press conference of the lending institution and the Philippine government represented by Finance Secretary Margarito Teves (left) on Thursday.

13th storm expected to hit land tomorrow

By Ephraim Aguilar and Jaymee Gamil, *Inquirer Southern Luzon* **and TJ Burgonio** *in Manila*

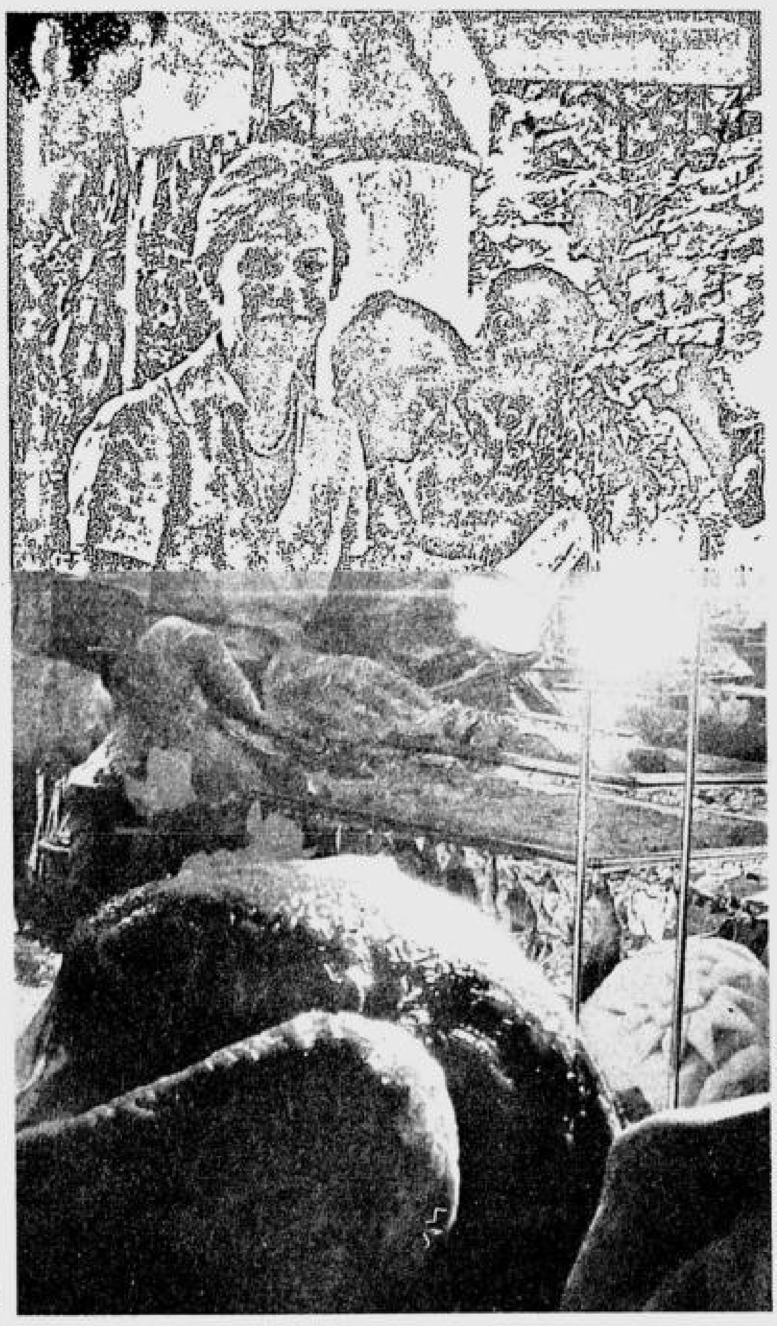
THE 13TH STORM TO menace the Philippines this year bore down on the Bicol region yesterday, prompting provincial authorities to order mass evacuations in various areas with a combined population of close to a million.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda said more than 600,000 people were targeted for evacuation in his province, while Bicol civil defense chief Raffy Alejandro said another 200,000 needed to be moved out of harm's way in Camarines Sur.

But the evacuation was proceeding at an apparently slow pace.

As of 5 p.m. yesterday, only a total of 9,437 families—or 45,923 people—had been evacuated in Albay, records from the

1M BICOL/ A23


JULIE S. ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

WELL DONE: US Ambassador Kristie Kenney hosts a Thanksgiving feast in Zamboanga City on Thursday complete with generous servings of turkey for military, city government officials and US troops. *(Story on Page A2.)*

WB probe on corruption done

By Doris C. Dumlao and Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD BANK YESTERDAY affirmed its commitment to fund Phase 2 of the Philippines' National Road Improvement and Management Program (NRIMP), but said it would not do so until safeguards had been put in place to prevent the recurrence of earlier uncovered irregularities.

Peter Stephens,' World Bank spokesperson for East Asia and the Pacific, basically reiterated his statement to Reuters the other day in which he said the multilateral agency would take all the time necessary to complete its inquiry into the alleged bid rigging of earlier road projects.

The World Bank's internal investigation unit, the Department of Institutional Integrity (INT), has completed its report on the supposed irregularities in NRIMP-1 projects, but the bank is not ready to disclose highlights of the report.

But the report will be used by the Philippine Ombudsman for its own investigation.

Stephens, however, said the World Bank board's approval of

WORLD BANK/ A23

PNP final report: G2 blast not bomb attack

By Alcuin Papa and Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

IT'S OFFICIAL: THE MULTI-Agency Investigation Task Force looking into the deadly blast at the Glorietta 2 mall in Makati City on Oct. 19 has concluded that it was a gas explosion, and not a bomb attack.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday in Camp Crame, Chief Supt. Luizo Ticman said that "after the examination of all the pieces of evidence collected from the blast site and the thorough conduct of a post-blast investigation," the task force had found "that the incident was not a bomb explosion but a gas explosion."

Ticman, who heads the task force, said the investigation was "scientific" and had "made use of forensics, and even mathematics."

The task force is composed of the Philippine National Police, Philippine Bomb Data Center, Bureau of Fire Protection, Department of Justice, National Bureau of Investigation and the Makati police's Explosives and Ordnance Division (EOD).

The explosion killed 11 people and injured more than 100 others.

Asked to comment, Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), owner of the Glorietta shopping complex, said it was standing by its position that the explosion could not have been triggered by methane gas or diesel fumes.

"We are saddened by these developments and we do not understand how they are able to establish these findings conclusively since our own experts

PNP FINAL/ A22

Asean-EU trade talks stumble over Burma

SINGAPORE—THE ASSOCIATION of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and the European Union (EU) yesterday called for enhanced economic cooperation and the release of political detainees in military-ruled Burma (Myanmar), but set no deadlines for either.

After three days of debate over Burma among Asean leaders, who were in Singapore for annual political and trade summits, Asean turned to negotiations with the European Union to conclude a five-year action plan and continue talks on a free trade agreement.

But the actions of Burma—accepted into Asean in 1997—still occupied much of the agenda. A

ASEAN-EU/ A21

Writing dirty wins int'l award for PDI reporter

By Eliza Victoria
Inquirer Research

IT PAYS TO WRITE DIRTY.

Philippine Daily Inquirer reporter Margaux C. Ortiz and two other journalists from Indonesia won the "Best Sanitation Reporting Award" in the 2007 media competition of the first ever East Asia Ministerial Conference on

WRITING/ A10

EUGENE ARANETA

WINNERS CIRCLE: Sandy P. Romualdez, Terry Savage, Yoly V. Ong, Merlee Jayme and Andre S. Khan open the exhibit on the world's best advertising work.

Inquirer exhibits Cannes Lions' best creative minds

By Marlet D. Salazar and Ansbert Joaquin

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—IN recognition of the creative minds in the marketing and advertising industry, the INQUIRER yesterday opened the Cannes Lions 2007 Winners Edition Exhibit and Screening at the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC) ongoing at the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center here.

INQUIRER president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez formally opened the exhibit and screening together with Cannes Lions executive chair Terry Savage. They were joined by Yoly Ong, 20th PAC chair, Andre Khan, president of the Advertising Board of the Philippines, and Merlee Jayme, president of the Creative Guild.

INQUIRER / A10

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol and Southern Quezon will experience stormy weather. The rest of Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. Mindanao will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Stormy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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No US bases in RP, says envoy

Kenney: We're not building bases; we don't need any

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—"WE ARE NOT BUILDING any bases in the Philippines, we don't have any plans to have bases, and we don't need any bases," US Ambassador Kristie Kenney told reporters at the Western Mindanao Command here yesterday where she hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for American and Filipino military officers.

Asked if she had read a newspaper article on a Thai think tank report that said the United States was quietly putting up military bases in the Philippines, Kenney said: "I haven't seen the paper and I didn't read the article."

"Filipinos are doing a great job and we are delighted to be here as guests and of assistance but, categorically, absolutely and completely, we are not building bases here," she repeated.

Bangkok-based think tank Focus on the Global South released a report on Wednesday accusing Washington of maintaining secret bases in the Philippines to serve as "lily pads" for US military forces to keep China in check.

The US considers China the biggest emerging economic, political and military threat to its supremacy in the Asia-Pacific, the report said.

Titled "At the Door of all the East: The Philippines in United States Military Strategy," the report said the US Overseas Basing Commission, a body created by the US Congress to review the realignment of the US military presence around the world, listed the Philippines among the countries where the US has been developing "cooperative security locations" or CSLs, a new category of offshore US military bases.

These "lily pads" are intended to allow US troops to hop from their larger bases to their target destinations rapidly.

Focus on Global South said CSLs were categorized as US military installations that were nominally owned by their host governments but were to be provided for US use when needed.

Kenney said the US troops in the country were here at the invitation of the Philippine government.

With the signing of the Visiting Forces Agreement with the US in 1999, American troops have been coming to the Philippines yearly to hold joint counterterrorism exercises with their local counterparts.

In Sulu and Basilan, US troops have been assisting Filipino soldiers against the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist groups.

Kenney said the Philippine military and police "are doing a great job."

Call for Senate probe

"It's a tough fight. Though you have enemies who are clever, who are willing to go to extreme lengths to disrupt peace and security, the AFP and PNP are putting their lives on the line every single day," she said.

Kenney later held a close-door meeting with Western Mindanao Command chief Maj. Gen. Nelson Allaga and Filipino military commanders from Basilan and Sulu.

A militant fishermen's group yesterday called on the Senate to investigate the alleged existence of US military bases in the country.

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said that aside from keeping tabs on China, the American bases—supposedly located at Clark and Subic in Central Luzon and Mactan International Airport in the Visayas and General Santos City Airport in Mindanao—might be used to detain suspected terrorists.

"We have repeatedly heard about the existence of secret American bases, especially in Mindanao, since the US-led and Philippine-backed global war on terror began.

"Anything, including human rights violations, can happen in those bases because they are secret," said Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap in an interview. *With reports from Jerome Aning and Cynthia D. Balana*

WHAT'S INSIDE

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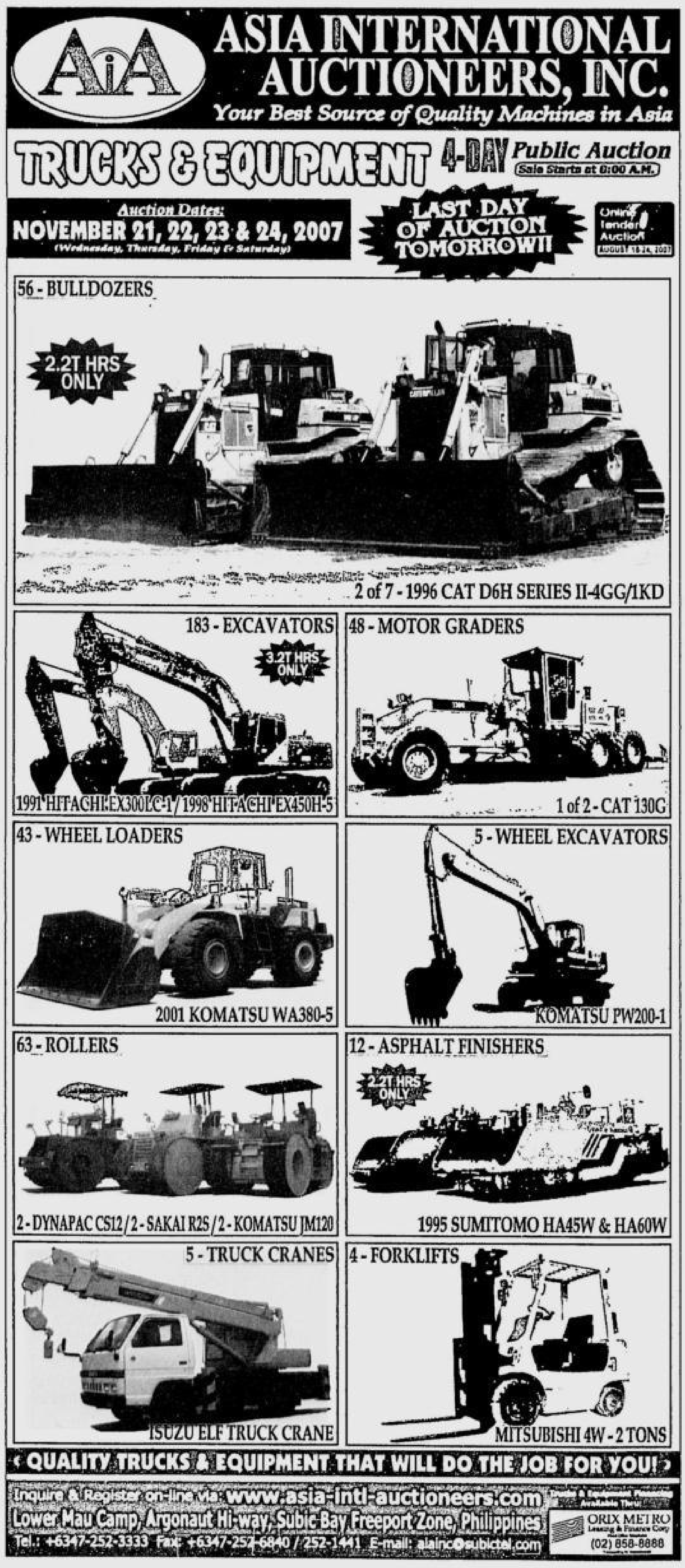
▨ **SAGUISAG** client may need new lawyer /A6

▨ **ENRILE** calls JDV son a coward /A8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NATIONAL INSTRUMENT?

Rondalla maestro makes strong pitch for banduria

By Jerome Aning

A RESPECTED *RONDALLA* MAESTRO is pushing for the adoption of the banduria as the country's national musical instrument to stimulate interest in its study and cultivation.

"The banduria is a valued legacy of our forefathers. It is a mark of Filipino ingenuity and an emblem of the musical culture of the nation," said Celso Espejo, 71, who has been playing the 14-string instrument since he was 12.

Espejo, a public school teacher from Las Piñas, set up the Celso Espejo Rondalla four years ago, composed of two generations of banduria virtuosi.

"The Philippine banduria is unique because one can actually arrange a musical score for it, whether for solo or orchestra. Abroad, the counterparts of the banduria are mostly used for mere accompaniment or background for songs," Espejo explained.

Espejo will head the board of judges for the *rondalla* category of the annual National Music Competition for Young Artists (Namcya). Some 15 high school *rondalla* groups from various regions will compete with one another at the competitions which start today at the the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The contest is open to the public, free of charge, for the first time, with the lead organizers CCP and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts hoping it can stimulate interest in the *rondalla* and the banduria.

Similar to Western mandolin

According to Espejo, the banduria, a pear-shaped string instrument similar to the Western mandolin, is a popular and recognizable native instrument found in most regions of the country.

The instrument forms part of the *rondalla*, an ensemble of native plucked instruments. Fashioned from common Philippine wood such as *langka*, *narra*, *kamagong* and mahogany, the instruments are played with a plectrum of turtle shell.

According to Espejo, the ideal *rondalla* group consists of about 35 to 40 members, playing a specified number of bandurias, *octavinas* and lauds (the latter two instruments resembling the banduria but sounding one octave lower), guitars, basses and drum.

In urban areas, *rondalla* groups are best known for providing music for folk dances, fiestas, weddings and other civic and social functions.

THE BANDURIA in the hands of a member of the Celso Espejo Rondalla.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"The sad thing is that because there are many players, the quality of the music has somehow suffered due to the lack of good coaches and teachers," Espejo lamented.

Spain brought the *rondalla* to the Philippines in the 1800s, evolving into the Filipino *rondalla* with its distinct instruments and unique design, the most prominent of which is the banduria, in the early 20th century.

Espejo said the *rondalla* had its hey day in the 1960s, when *rondalla* competitions were featured in radio and television variety shows such as the "Hamon ng Kampeon."

"The *rondalla* earned tremendous public patronage then. Government officials and schools vied with one another to have have the best *rondalla* group. Big-time businessmen even sponsored their own contests," he recalled.

Part of the national heritage

The period also saw the production of original *rondalla* pieces that are now considered part of the national heritage. One arrangement, the 10-minute-long Philippine Symphonic Medley for Rondalla by Jerry Dadap, which won a competition in 1967, will be played by the bands competing tonight at the CCP.

Ironically, many Philippine *rondalla* groups are found abroad, with the best ones based in Singapore, Japan, Australia and Boston in the United States.

In the 1980s, when interest in the banduria waned, Espejo and other banduria enthusiasts organized the Pambansang Samahan ng Rondalla (Pasaron), which performed concerts at the Nayong Pilipino and the Rizal Park open-air auditorium.

From 1986 to 1995, Pasaron organized annual festivals and competitions to "re-popularize" the banduria, attracting an average of 20 groups, or about 1,000 individual young players.

In 1995, the Namcya, whose mandate is to discover and develop young Filipino musical talents from all over the country, included the *rondalla* among its contest categories.

Espejo said *rondalla* performances usually attract senior citizens, Filipino expatriates and foreign tourists. Many youths are interested in listening to the banduria but very few want to play, he said.

"People think a banduria is hard to play. But with competent instruction, learning how to play the banduria is easier than learning how to play the guitar," he said.

Espejo has taught banduria playing for the past 40 years, including several of his children who are members of the *rondalla* that he founded. Banduria is also being taught nowadays as part of the curriculum in a few music conservatories.

Own identity in music

He said young Filipinos nowadays are more interested in playing in modern bands.

"I have nothing against foreign songs and musical form but we have to have our own identity in music. We must preserve something that others would automatically point to, when they hear it, as something Filipino and coming from the Philippines. That is my dream," he said.

What would boost interest in *rondalla* again to new heights?

"Maybe if a famous pop artist can come out with a song accompanied by *rondalla* or if a variety show would again feature a *rondalla* competition," Espejo said.

Another blast rocks Kidapawan; 1 dead, 6 wounded

KIDAPAWAN CITY—A POWERFUL EXPLOSION rocked the KNCC Mall here at around 5 p.m. yesterday, killing an unidentified person and wounding at least six others.

Chief Insp. Leo Ajero, city police chief, said the improvised bomb was placed at the baggage counter of the mall, which is located near the main entrance on Dayao St.

He said he could not say whether the bomb was remotely detonated or if it was triggered by a timing device because investigation was still going on.

Unexploded bomb

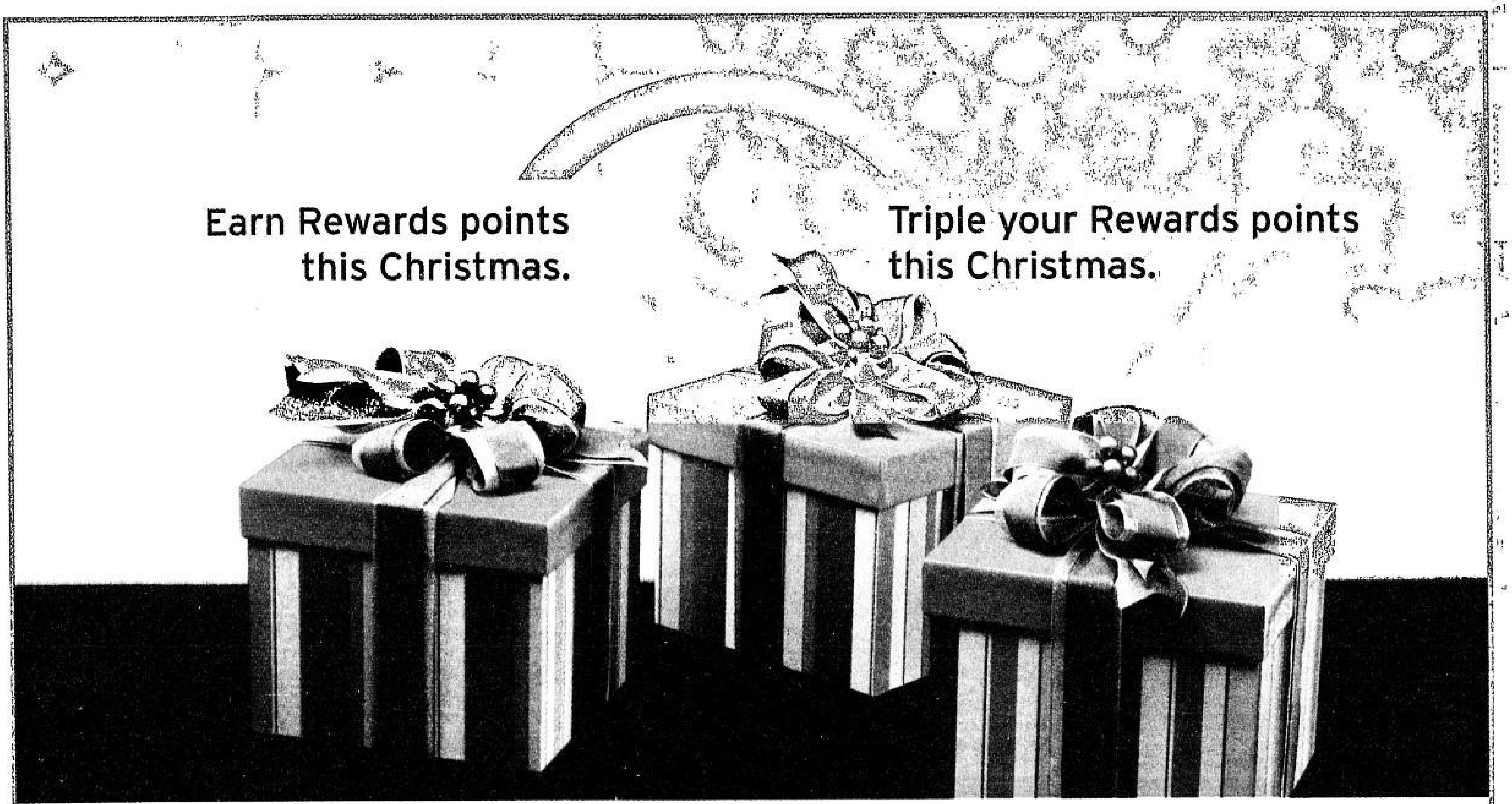
Ajero said investigators later recovered another unexploded bomb in the same area.

But he declined to elaborate on the find.

In October, two bombs exploded along Quezon Avenue here, killing one and wounding several others.

Authorities have blamed local terrorists for the blast and earlier incidents that occurred in the city.

Rolando Pinsoy, Inquirer Mindanao



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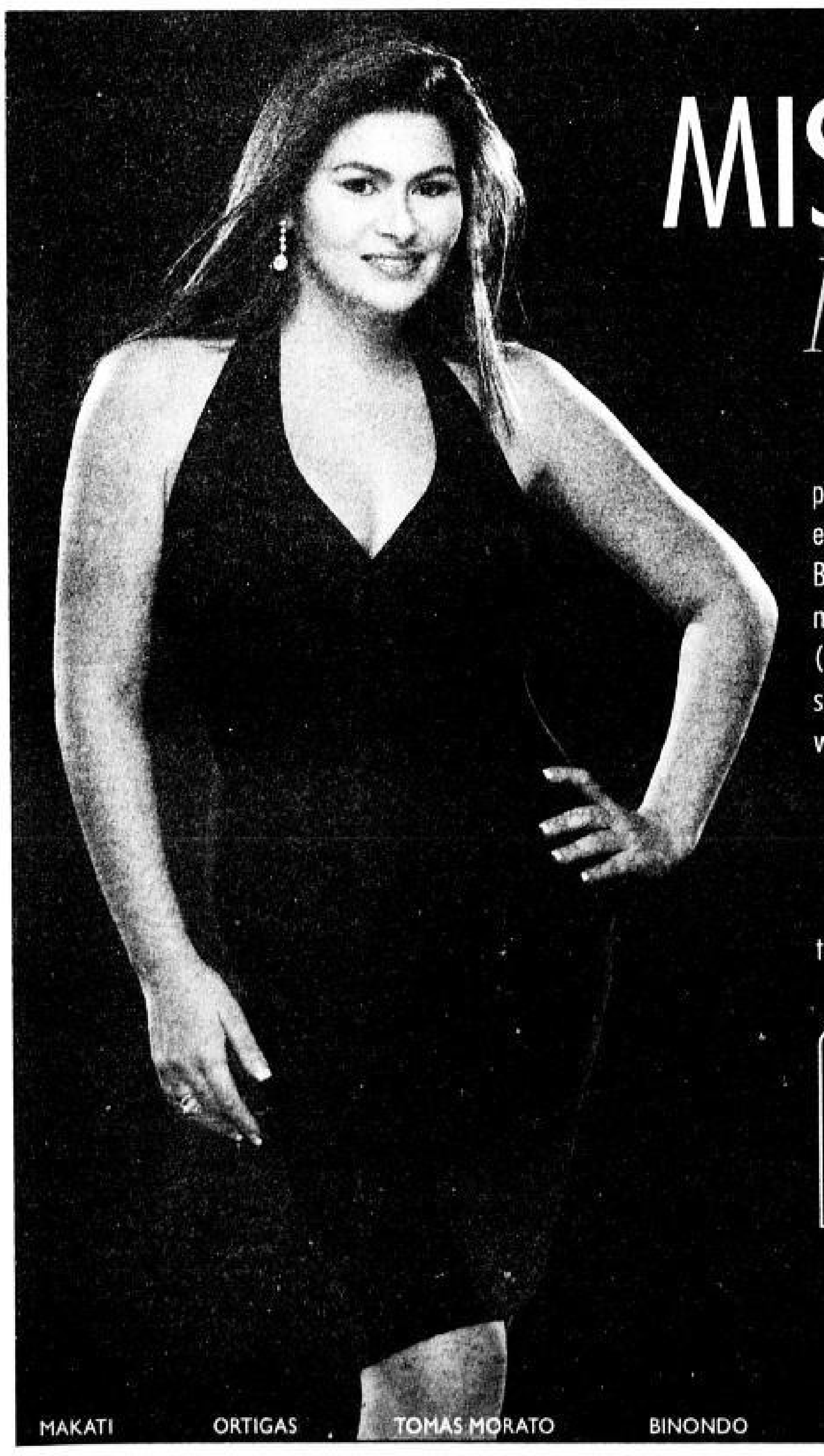

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Slain solon's relatives backtrack on suspects

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A DAY AFTER THEY LINKED FORMER REP. Gerry Salapuddin and Anak Mindanao party-list Rep. Mujiv Hataman to the killing of Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar in the Batasang Pambansa bombing, the latter's relatives now say neither man was involved.

Akbar's niece, Lantawan (Basilan) Mayor Tahiran Ismael, said yesterday at the "Usaping Balita" media forum at Serye cafe the Akbar family was satisfied with the investigation being conducted by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-National Capital Region to uncover the brains of the bombing.

Ismael said the Akbar clan would also be satisfied should the CIDG probe end with the filing of charges against former Tuburan (Basilan) Mayor Hajarun Jamiri.

Jamiri was arrested on Nov. 19 after three suspects picked up earlier in Payatas, Quezon City, pointed to the apartelle where he was staying and tell-tale signs of a bomb were found in his quarters and his clothing.

Even though Jamiri had links to Salapuddin through the Lakas party, Ismael, the Akbars' spokesperson, said: "We cannot conclude that he (Salapuddin) was involved."

She explained in Filipino: "Before the congressman [Akbar] died, he wanted to unify the politicians in Basilan. He wanted to recommend Salapuddin to be the representative of the second district of Basilan once this was created."

In Hataman's case, Ismael said that until the CIDG finds proof of his involvement, they would have to go by what the evidence says.

"Our suspicion (on the identity of the mastermind) will depend on the investigation. We believe in the CIDG probe," Ismael said, adding, "We believe in the rule of law."

As for speculations that Akbar's death would trigger a "rido" or clan war, Ismael said this was not possible since the only enemy of the Akbars was the Abu Sayyaf group.

A relative by affinity of one of the Batasan bombing suspects, however, said yesterday his wife's cousin had implicated Salapuddin, Hataman and the latter's brother, Jim Hataman, in the Nov. 13 Batasan bombing that killed three others aside from Akbar and wounded 12 people.

Ungkaya Pukan (Basilan) Mayor Joel Maturan, whose wife Jainab is Ikram Indama's cousin, said Indama also confessed his participation in the bombing.

Indama, together with Adham Kusain and Caidar Aunal, were arrested in a house in Payatas on Nov. 15. *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

Loi won't give up assets, 'but they can have Boracay'

By Nancy Carvajal

FORMER SENATOR LUISA "LOI" Estrada has said that she and her husband, ousted President Joseph "Erap" Estrada, would not give up any of their property to satisfy the order of the Sandiganbayan, but added the government was welcome to the so-called Boracay mansion which her husband had gifted to one of his mistresses.

"They cannot seize any of our assets, because we have not acquired any property during his term," Estrada told the INQUIRER during a lull in a medical mission she led in Navotas City on Wednesday.

The Sandiganbayan has started looking at personal and real properties of the former president it was considering seizing to complete the P545 million that the antigraft court had ordered be given the government when it convicted Erap of plunder in September.

Loi said the couple's properties were the product of hard work while Erap was an actor, echoing the former president's earlier statement.

"He never stole from the country, we would fight for it if we had to," Loi said.

But, she said, she posed no objection to the court getting the Boracay mansion which Erap had built for his mistress Laarni Enriquez.

"They can have the mansion and the Velarde account which is based on the second envelope and which is not owned by Erap," she said.

Loi said her husband's newly gained freedom was the result of prayers that were answered and refused to give President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo credit for her husband's release.

The President pardoned Erap six weeks after his conviction.

"It was God's gift, answered prayers for non-stop praying for six and a half years, and Gloria was just an instrument," Loi said.

She added that Ms Macapagal's move only meant that Erap was given back what rightly belonged to him.

"She deprived him of the presidency and his freedom for so long, it's just right that Erap was pardoned because they were the ones who were responsible for his plight in the first place," Loi said.

The former senator also said she was never happy in politics, but promised to support Erap should he decide to run again for president in 2010.

"As usual I would support him in case he finally decides to run," she said.

Erap had hinted during his forays after his pardon that he was open to running for public office if the opposition remained divided.

Loi added that after what her husband went through, "all the more he deserve my support."

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Corrections

IN THE NOV. 22 ISSUE, THE FRONT-PAGE BANNER STORY—"Magnate tied to cash gifts"—erroneously described Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio as a former priest. When Panlilio filed his candidacy, he was suspended from performing priestly duties but he remains a priest.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a front-page article—"GMA rushes home after hitting Burma"—gave the wrong impression that President Macapagal-Arroyo was billeted at the Shangri-La hotel. While she was in Singapore for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit, Ms Arroyo was billeted at the Fullerton Hotel Singapore.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, November 23, 2007
33rd Week in Ordinary Time
Clement / Columban / Bl.
Miguel Agustin Pro

1st Reading:	1 Mac 4:36-37, 52-59
Gospel:	Luke 19:45-48

Jesus entered the Temple area and began to drive out the merchants. And he said to them, "God says in the Scriptures: My house shall be a house of prayer: but you have turned it into a den of robbers."

Jesus was teaching every day in the Temple. The chief priests and teachers of the Law wanted to kill him and the elders of the Jews as well, but they were unable to do anything, for all the people were listening to him and hanging on his words.

Commentary

Judas Maccabees, the leader of the revolt at the time of the liberation of the sanctuary, brings the army and the people to rededicate the building to the worship of Yahweh. And the people rejoice for eight days. This is the Feast of the Lights (a candle for each day) still celebrated in Judaism at this time—the reclamation of the Temple. Jesus too reclaims the temple (a house of prayer) for the worship and praise of God. He ejects the traders, using force, but harming no one-a prophetic and symbolic gesture meant to highlight the necessity of severing the ties between economics/politics and religion. The worship of God does not serve anything but God alone. And today, there are many still—within church and without—who seek to destroy anyone who speaks as clearly as did Jesus on this issue. Let us examine ourselves to see whether the way we practice our religion serves the dominant culture, government, and economic system more than it calls us to transformation and conversion to Jesus' good news to the poor.

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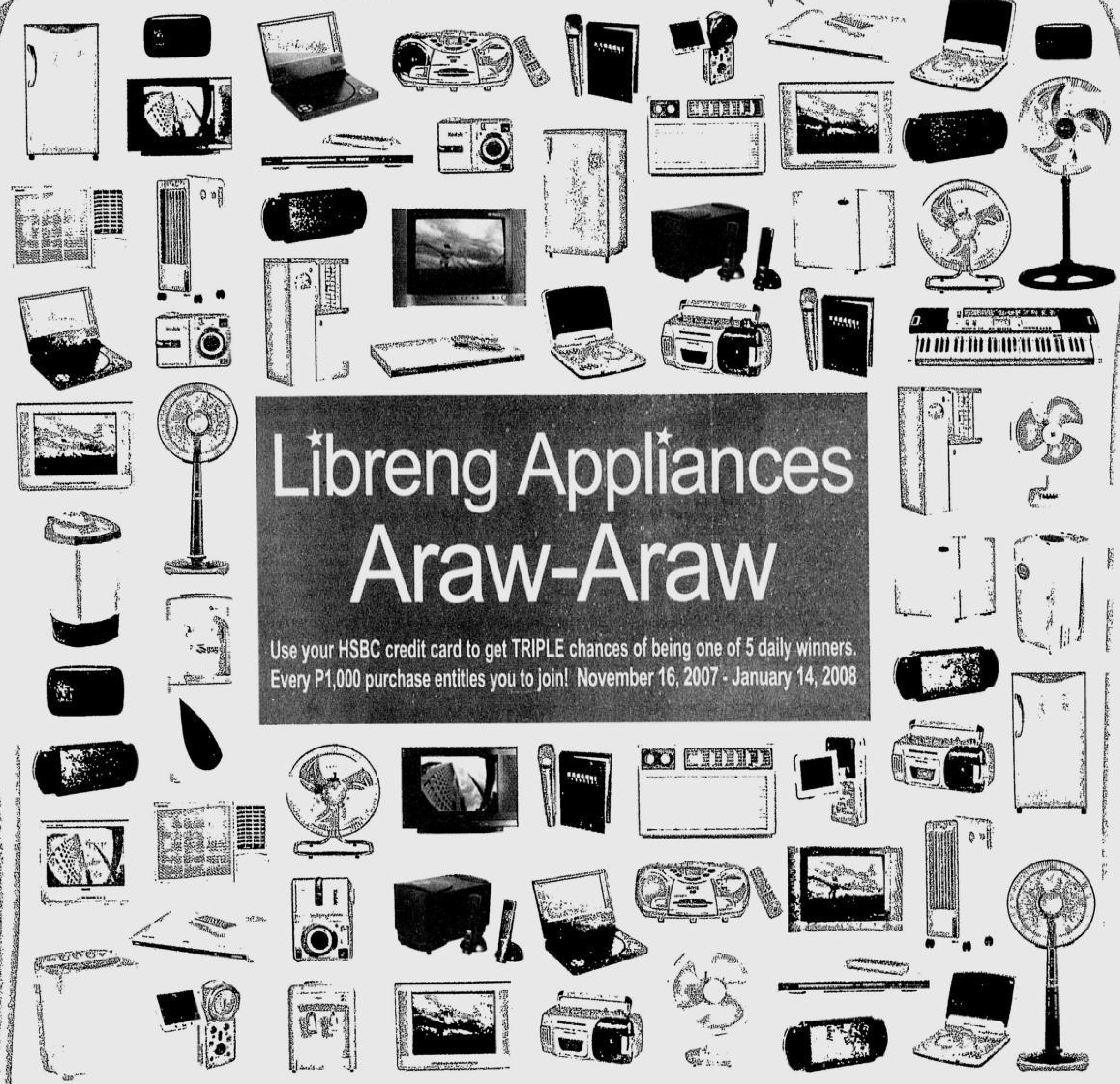

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

RENOVATION OF MCO BUILDING, PHASE III

MCO Compound, Rizal Highway corner Magsaysay Avenue, SBFZ

Project Description/Scope of Works:

The proposed Project shall include but not limited to the provision of labor, materials, tools, equipment, application / securing of all permits and other incidentals necessary to complete the renovation of an office building including construction of new entrance door canopy with concrete landing / steps; rehabilitation of existing toilet room including de-clogging of pipeline, installation of new wall partitions, ceiling works, tile works, painting works and electrical works for the **Proposed Renovation of MCO Building, Phase III.**

1. The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), through its Corporate Budget for 2007 intends to apply the sum of **One Million and Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 1.5Million)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Proposed **Renovation of MCO Building Phase III.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The SBMA now calls for the submission of **Letters of Intent (LOIs) and Application for Eligibility** from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the **Proposed Renovation of MCO Building Phase III.** Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids.
3. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).
4. Information on BAC activities is as follows:

Item No.	BAC Activities	Schedule	Address
1	Receipt from prospective bidders of LOIs including Application for Eligibility and Issuance of Eligibility Forms	November 23 – 29, 2007 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	BAC Chairman c/o Engineering Department, Room 223, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBFZ) Tel. #s: (047) 252 – 4101 / 4408 Fax #: (047) 252 – 4713
2	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	December 3-4, 2007 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	BAC Secretariat, Room 203, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ Tel. #: (047) 252 - 4783 Fax #: (047) 252 - 4780
3	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	December 7, 2007 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Same address on Item 2
4	Issuance of Bid Documents	Dec. 10-13, 2007 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Dec. 14, 2007 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Same address on Item 1
5	Pre-bid Conference	December 14, 2007 2:00 PM	PPMD Conference Room, Bldg. 225, Barryman Road, SBFZ
6	Receipt and Opening of Bids	December 26, 2007 2:00 PM	Same address on Item 5

5. The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the above address upon their submission of a LOI and Application for Eligibility, and upon their payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00).
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00).
7. Relevant Requirement: Minimum PCAB Registration and Classification/License:
    - General Building
    - GB-1 Building or Industrial Plant
    - Small B
8. Completion of the Works is required by **Sixty (60) calendar days** from the date stated in the Notice to Proceed.
9. The SBMA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, in accordance with the provisions of RA 9184 without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) ATTY. RAMON O. AGREGADO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – November 23 & 30, 2007)

MEDICAL BULLETIN

Doc on Saguisag: 'Very nice'

LAWYER RENE SAGUISAG MAY be moved out of the Intensive Care Unit of the Makati Medical Center in a few days.

"The situation is very nice … His health is very good and he's practically off the ventilator," said Dr. Eric Nubla, chief of the MMC's patient relations office.

Nubla, who has dispensed with the regular written bulletins on the former senator's condition, said the doctors were "very optimistic and hopeful" that Saguisag can be transferred to a regular room before the weekend.

Even though Saguisag still has a breathing tube in his throat, Nubla said he was practically breathing on his own since the weaning process during which the respirator put on "assist-mode" began last Wednesday.

Nubla said that even with a breathing tube attached to Saguisag, he can still be moved to a regular room.

A tube on Saguisag's left chest has also been drawing considerably less fluid the past few days, the doctor said.

"His main problem now is just the pain from the fractures in his ribs," which should heal naturally in a few weeks, Nubla added.

Saguisag's driver, Felipe Calvario, remains in stable condition. His nurses have reported that Calvario's muscles have become more pliable since he was placed on a regimen of bedside physiotherapy.

The physiotherapy is meant to prepare Calvario's body, particularly his muscles, for when he regains full consciousness. Unlike Saguisag, however, Calvario is unable to communicate and recognize anyone, though he can follow doctors' instructions.

Saguisag and Calvario were seriously injured in a car accident last Nov. 8 in which Saguisag's wife, Dulce, was killed.

Saguisag's son Rebo said his father has been inquiring about his scheduled church wedding in December, which has been postponed because of the accident.

"I saw sadness in his eyes and it seemed he was feeling some guilt because my big day will not go as planned. But I told him that it was the least of my worries and I just want him to get better," Rebo said. *DJ Yap*

Saguisag client may need new lawyer

By DJ Yap

THE SOLDIER REPRESENTED by Rene Saguisag may have to hire another lawyer unless Saguisag is well enough to resume work by Dec. 20, according to the judge hearing the coup d'etat case against the junior military officers accused of leading the failed July 2003 coup.

Makati Judge Oscar Pimentel said he agreed Saguisag should be given time to recover from his injuries from the Nov. 8 automobile accident that killed his wife Dulce. However, the judge agreed with state prosecutors that February was a long way to wait for the former senator.

Saguisag's client, 1st Lt. Nathaniel Rabonza, has sought a postponement of his defense presentation until February or March 2008.

Pimentel said Rabonza could either look for another counsel or, if Saguisag was ready, present the defense evidence and witnesses on Dec. 20.

Theodore Te, who represents other accused officers, told reporters this could be a problem. "It's very difficult for one lawyer to catch up. He'll need at least a month," he said.

Even Saguisag's son, Rebo, a lawyer who has been assisting his father in the case, might "not be up to speed," Te said. "He has more things to worry about."

Since the accident, Saguisag remains in the Intensive Care Unit of the Makati Medical Center though his doctors said he is in stable condition and continues to improve.

Saguisag wanted to subpoena President Macapagal-Arroyo to testify on the negotiations at the height of the July 2003 failed coup, also called the Oakwood mutiny. The lawyer claims that Ms Arroyo as commander in chief allegedly promised that all but five Magdalo leaders would be spared from criminal prosecution.

Saguisag figured this line of defense would free Rabonza and his other co-accused, save for the core leaders.

Aside from Ms Arroyo, Saguisag also sought a subpoena *duces tecum* for the military to produce in court detained Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, who is detained in connection with the February 2006 failed coup.

Lim was supposedly one of the parties in the negotiations to end the standoff at the Oakwood Premier Hotel which the heavily armed mutinous junior officers, who styled themselves as the Magdalo group, took over and threatened to blow up.

The prosecution objected to the request to subpoena the President and Pimentel denied it, saying there were others who were qualified to testify about Ms Arroyo's alleged promise. That ruling is under appeal.

The Office of the Solicitor General, which entered its appearance in a previous hearing, also voiced its own objection to the subpoenas against Ms Arroyo and Lim through a motion to quash.

Te questioned the OSG move. "The people are rightfully represented by the prosecution arm of the Department of Justice. They (the OSG) have no mandate" to appear in the coup d'etat case, he said.

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November 22, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	HIGH FREQUENCY CIRCUIT TECHNOLOGY, INC. FCIE, Brgy. Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Mr. Koji Kobuki/ Japanese	Technical Adviser
2.	HOUSE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PTE. LTD. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Nobuyuki Nakaya/ Japanese	Adviser – Interior QA
3.	DAICOLOR PHILIPPINES, INC. CIE, Canlubang, Calamba City	Mr. Makoto Akiyama/ Japanese	Executive Vice President
4.	JU-YOUNG ELECTRONICS (PHILS.), INC. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Dong Gyu Lee/ Korean	Consultant
5.	STITCH HAUS, INC. Bancal, Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Jae Sun Kim	Production Manager
6.	TRAVEL EXPLORER TOUR CONSULTANCY Covina Subd. Imus, Cavite	Mr. Janeesh Jalaluddin Indian	Travel Consultant
7.	FUJITSU COMPUTER PRODUCTS CORP. OF THE PHILS. CIP, Canlubang, Calamba City	Mr. Masaaki Suzuki Japanese	VP of HDD Division

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI - Nov. 23, 2007)

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (INEC) invites all interested computer suppliers to participate in a public bidding for the supply and delivery of computer servers on Lease Basis.

A. **Computer Server Specifications**

Quantity - 1 set
Brand and Model : Hewlett Packard ML370 G5
Processor Type : Intel® Xeon® 5060 Quad-Core Processor 1.86 GHz 1066 MHz Front Side Bus
Number of processors : 2 Processors
Standard Memory : memory card; 4GB (2 x 2GB 2-5300 Fully Buffered DIMMs DDR2-667 SDRAM running at 533MHz, with Advanced ECC, Online Spare and Mirroring
Memory slots : 8 slots per memory card
Internal hard disk drive : 5 Pcs - HP 72 GB 3GB/s 15K rpm SAS SFF SP Hard Disk Drive
Hard disk controller : Smart Array P400 Controller with 256MB cache (RAID 0/1/5)
Internal drive bays : 16, requires second drive cage and controller
Operating Systems : Microsoft Windows® Server 2003 25 CAL

Further, INEC invites all interested computer suppliers to participate in a public bidding for the supply and delivery of line printers.

B. **Line Printer Specifications**

Quantity - 4 sets
Line Printer
Specs : 500 Lines per minute

Interested bidders shall include After Sales Support in their bid.

Bid documents may be obtained at the BAC Secretariat during office hours from November 26 - December 5, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid bond in the form of cash or manager's check in the amount equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price.

The INEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein or to accept such bids as maybe considered most advantageous and responsive to the INEC.

(Sgd.) RODRIGO R. AGLIAM
BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) RENATO A. BALINTEC, PEE
OIC-General Manager

(PDI - Nov. 23 & 24, 2007)

Roxas all set to take over LP, has party nod for 2010

SEN. MAR ROXAS IS EXPECTED TO be elected party president when the Liberal Party elects its new officers on Monday at the Club Filipino, according to former Senate President Franklin Drilon, the party's outgoing president.

"We expect the unanimous passage of a resolution electing Senator Mar Roxas as the next president of the party," Drilon said. "We all recognize the leadership of Senator Roxas and are eager to support him in all of his future plans, including a run for the presidency in 2010, if he so decides."

Another former party leader and Senate President, Jovito Salonga, will lead hundreds of members and guests who will attend the affair. Also expected is former President Corazon Aquino, according to an LP press statement.

DRILON

Salonga, one of this year's Magsaysay Awardees, was a former LP president and is considered by officials as the party's elder statesman. President Aquino has close ties with the party because her husband, the late Sen. Ninoy Aquino was a staunch Liberal, as is his son, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III. Local leaders and representatives of civil society groups have also been invited to attend the LP event.

Drilon said doors are open to the LP members associated with the faction of Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, many of whom had expressed their support for Roxas' assumption of the party presidency.

"The LP's national executive committee would be an open public meeting wherein we will conduct our business, that is, to elect a new party president," Drilon said.

Other party concerns, Drilon added, will be dealt with later on Roxas' judgment and discretion. He said Roxas, once elected, will have 45 days to choose the officers of the Liberal Party that would be in place for the next three years.

Drilon said the Supreme Court resolved with finality on June 5, 2007 the party's leadership dispute by declaring Drilon as party president and the March 2, 2006 election of officers initiated by the Atienza wing as invalid.

"The Supreme Court, in its decision, shattered any illusion that the LP is divided into two wings. It ruled in our favor and I hope that this decision would be respected and acknowledged by everyone, including the media," Drilon said.

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Senate to work double-time for 2008 budget

STARTING NEXT WEEK, THE SENATE WILL attempt to finish its plenary deliberations on the 2008 national budget in five session days.

To be able to do this, the senators agreed to hold morning and afternoon plenary sessions from Nov. 27 to Dec. 4 to accommodate the budget debates of the different government departments and agencies.

The Senate will hold day-long plenary sessions on Nov. 27, 28 and 29 and on Dec. 3 and 4.

Its target, according to the agreement during an senators' caucus Wednesday night, is to wrap up the deliberations by Dec. 4 and start the bicameral committee meetings with the panel from the House of Representatives by the second week of December.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, chair of the Senate finance committee, is expected to formally file his committee's report on the national budget budget on Nov. 26. The chair of the various sub-committees will also deliver their sponsorship speeches.

The House of Representatives on Nov. 12 passed on final reading the P1.227 trillion national budget.

Versions of national budget

The Senate and the House have to reconcile their versions of the national budget bill during the bicameral conference.

The Senate's target is to ratify the bicameral report before Congress goes into recess for the holidays by Dec. 17. The final bicameral version is then submitted to Malacañang for President Macapagal-Arroyo's signature.

In 2005 and 2006, the government was forced to operate on a reenacted national budget since Congress failed to pass the proposed budget. The 2007 budget, the country's first trillion peso allocation, was approved early this year.

The House of Representatives kept President Macapagal-Arroyo's budget proposal intact, but realigned about P30 billion from automatic debt payment appropriations to the budgets of the education and health departments.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, chair of the House appropriations committee, steered the budget's passage in the House.

The House-approved budget gave the education and public works departments the biggest outlays, with P145.975 billion and P94.461-B, respectively.

The defense department received P56.053 billion; interior and local government, P52.609 billion; agriculture, P23.756 billion; transportation and communications, P22.339 billion; health, P16.259 billion; agrarian reform, P13.006 billion; justice, P10.184 billion; and foreign affairs, P10.053 billion.

Gov't planning to lure OFWs back to RP – Noli

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO YESterday said the government would lure back Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) to the country by offering them work and business opportunities that could match those in their work places abroad.

Addressing the Conference on International Migration and the launching of the State of the Philippine Population Report at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Manila, De Castro said the government was in the process of putting in place economic and social infrastructures that would give OFWs what they find in foreign countries.

"We hope to bring back our overseas Filipinos, and offer them opportunities that would be at par or even better than what they see abroad," he said.

De Castro said the government should undertake a careful study and deliberately manage the population issue.

"It should be one that considers both the capacity of our country to support our people and the reforms needed to make full use of the potential of our labor force," he added.

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THE LANDMARK
MAKATI

Enrile calls JDV son a coward

By Gil C. Cabacungan and Christine O. Avendano

BUSINESSMAN JOSE "JOEY" DE Venecia III, the self-styled whistle-blower in the controversial $328-million national broadband network (NBN) contract, could be cited by the Senate for contempt after cutting short his appearance at the Senate investigation which he started.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile called the son of House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. a "coward" for refusing to make further appearances at the investigation.

De Venecia had claimed he had already told everything he knew about the deal and that he feared he could be liable to civil action in continuing to speak out.

"Why the complete turnaround from his earlier boast that he is always ready to appear at the Senate? His refusal to appear again, especially after dragging the names of other private individuals into the controversy, shows his cowardice and inability to substantiate his accusations," Enrile said. "It does not bode well for his earlier testimonies before the Senate, which to me were nebulous to say the least."

Enrile said De Venecia could not dictate his terms to the Senate and that he must appear if summoned or face contempt.

In separate testimonies at the Senate, De Venecia claimed that President Macapagal-Arroyo had urged Commission on Higher Education chair Romulo Neri to pursue the NBN project despite knowing that former Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos had offered to bribe the then economic planning secretary to pursue the deal.

De Venecia also accused the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, and his cronies led by International Container Terminal Services Inc. Enrique Razon Jr. of orchestrating the deal.

The Senate probe is expected to continue next week, bolstered by the ruling of the Supreme Court which allowed the Senate to look into the minutes of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) disclosing the process that led to the approval of the NBN deal and more details of the contract awarded to China's ZTE corporation that Malacañang had wanted to keep confidential.

Neri was at the time the director general of Neda.

"I welcome the action taken by the Supreme Court and am hopeful that once the judicial process is completed, the Senate would be able to obtain these documents in the pursuit of our legislative functions," said Sen. Mar Roxas, who together with Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, filed a petition with the SC last October 26 for a certiorari and mandamus to nullify Malacañang's invocation of executive privilege.

Roxas and Aquino said two documents in the contract—the annexes containing the design and pricing of the NBN project—were critical to "the work of the Senate in aid of legislation and inquiry."

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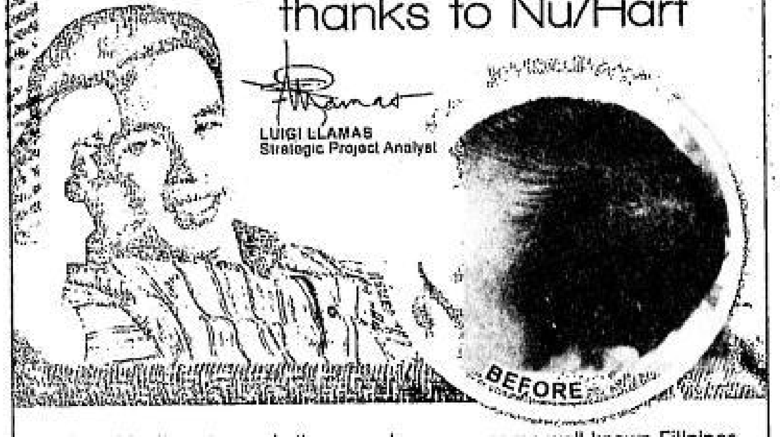
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Lifting of travel ban to Iraq urged

A LABOR GROUP YESTERDAY urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to lift a travel ban to or from Iraq to allow thousands of Filipinos to go out there to find lucrative jobs or come home for Christmas.

Also yesterday, the government and Israel have agreed to forge a labor agreement that would provide social security benefits to Filipino workers in Israel and Israeli nationals working in the Philippines, while another agreement cut with the United Arab Emirates seeks better protection for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in the state.

Although the President imposed the Iraq ban three years ago, an estimated 4,000 Filipinos have defied it and are working for contractors of the US-led coalition forces in Baghdad and elsewhere.

"The President should find compassion for those (Filipinos) in Iraq who have been there for the past four years working for the coalition forces and doing proud the Filipino work ethic," said Jackson Gan, an official of the Federated Association of Manpower Exporters Inc.

The government last week lifted similar travel bans to Afghanistan, Lebanon and Nigeria.

The government "wanted to alleviate the present situation where Filipinos working in those countries could also come home for Christmas and also allow other qualified workers to work in those countries," Gan said.

The government banned all its nationals from travelling to Iraq in 2004 after militants kidnapped and threatened to behead Filipino truck driver Angelo dela Cruz.

Dela Cruz was freed unharmed after Manila pulled out its token military contribution to the coalition forces.

"The President should reconsider her decision on the Iraq ban since the present situation is now under control with the reported return of Iraqis by the thousands to Baghdad just this week after leaving the country last year," Gan added.

The top US commander in Iraq, General David Petraeus, said in an interview published by the Wall Street Journal this week that his troops had made significant inroads against the al-Qaida-inspired insurgency there.

While the terror network "remains a very significant element of the security situation in Iraq ... it is a threat that has been diminished over the past six to eight months in particular," Petraeus added.

AFP and Cynthia Balana

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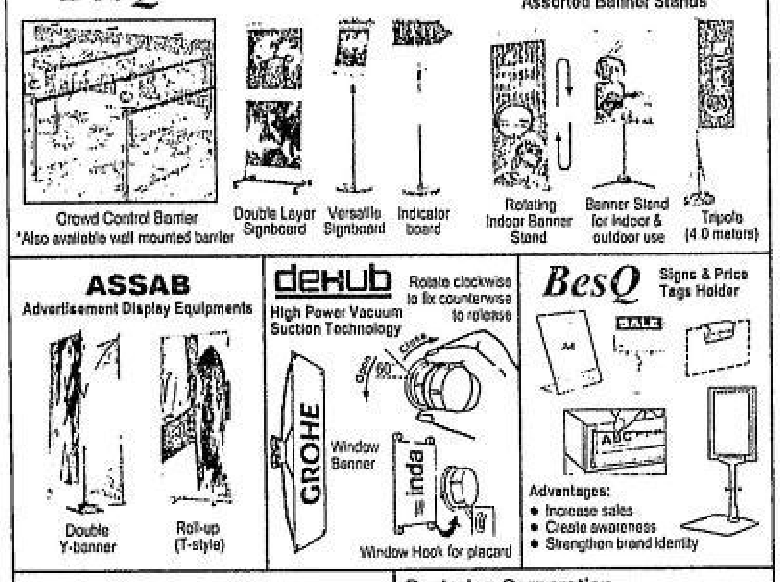
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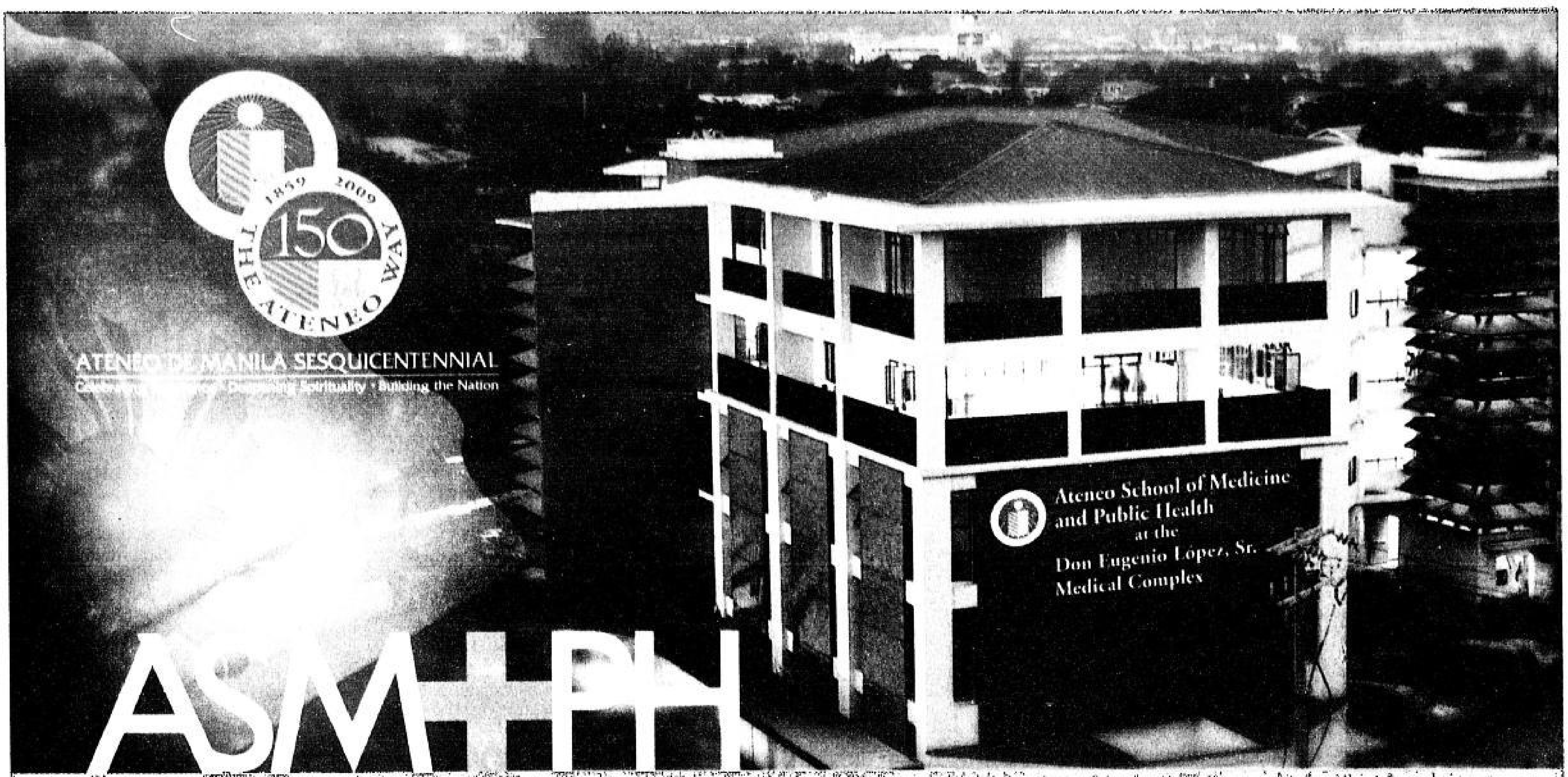
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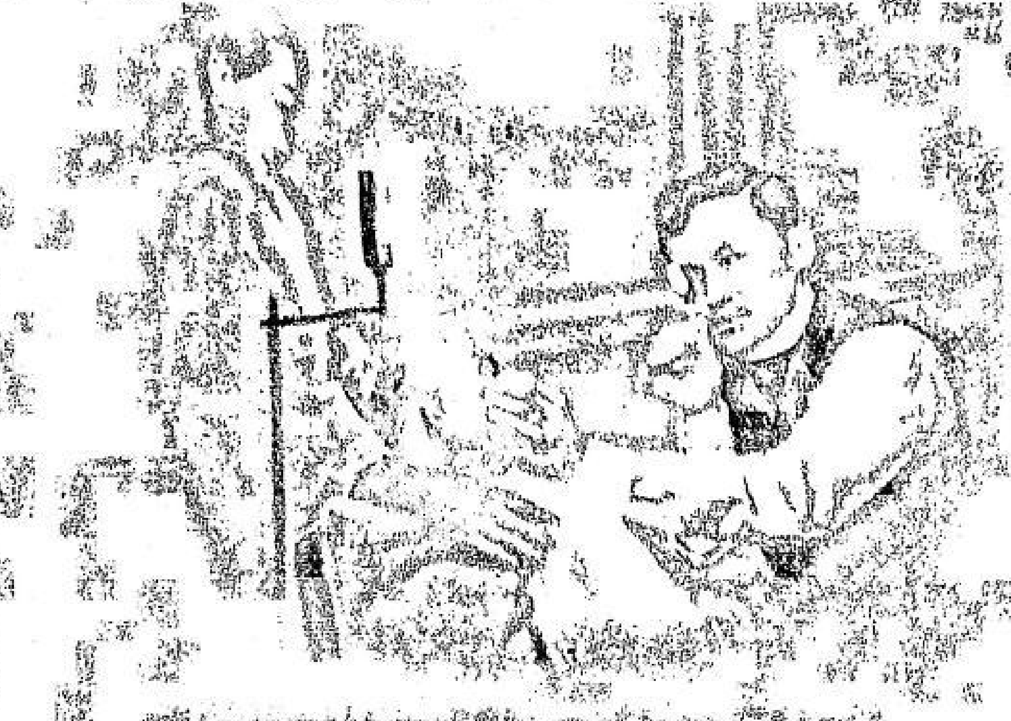

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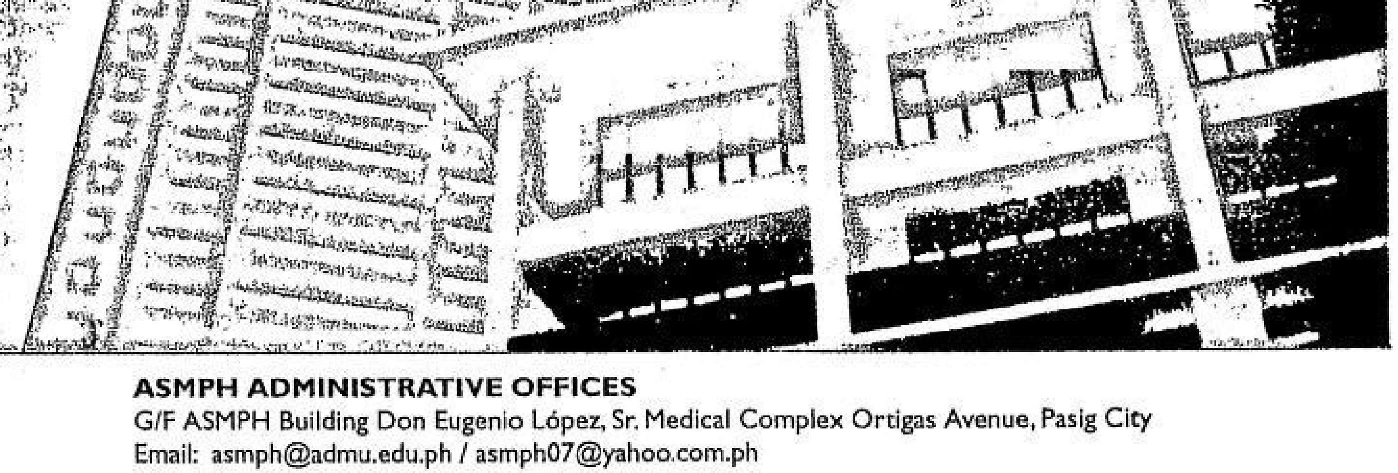

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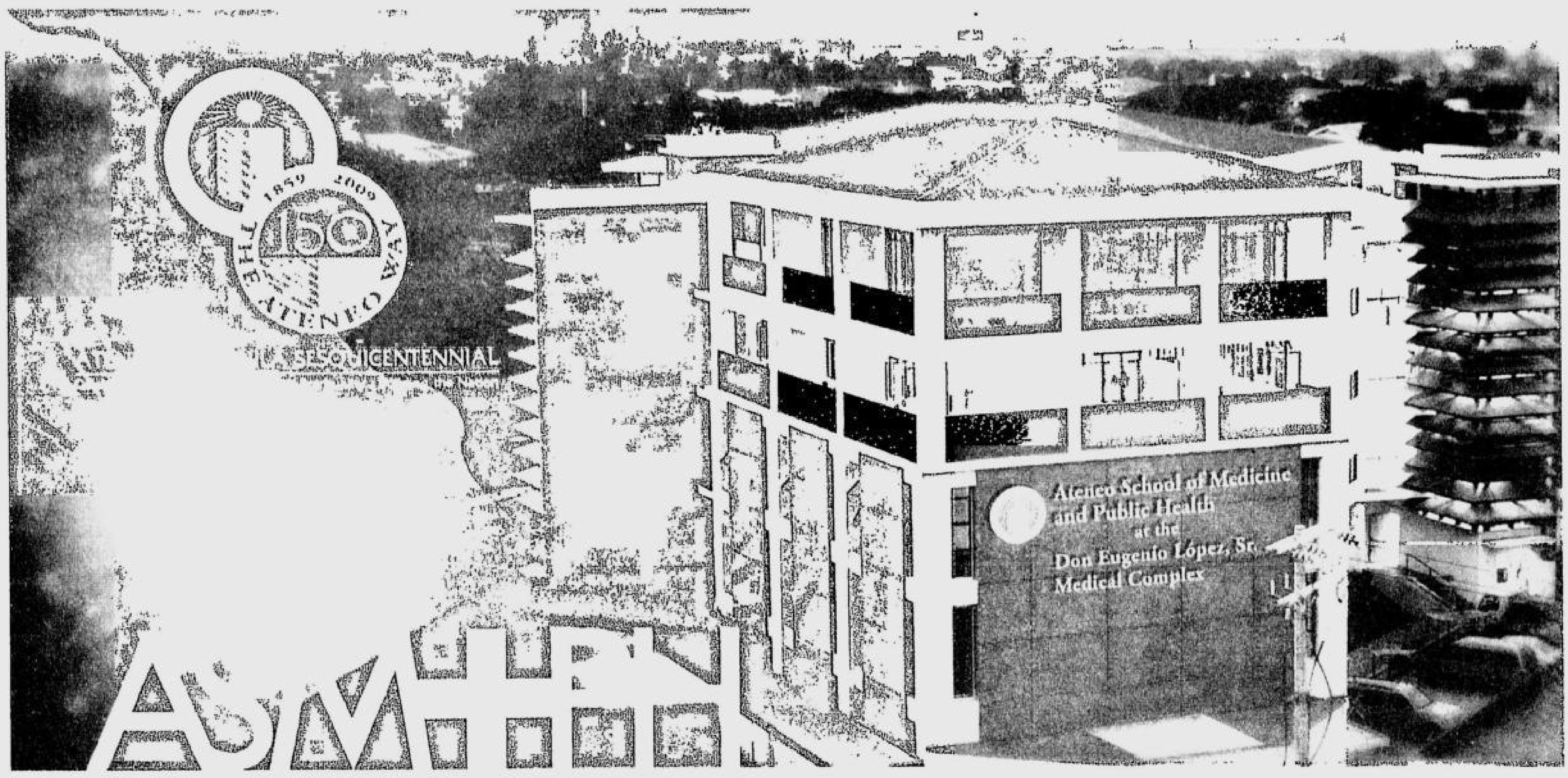
Blessing and Inauguration of the Don Eugenio López, Sr. Medical Complex and the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health Building, November 23, 2007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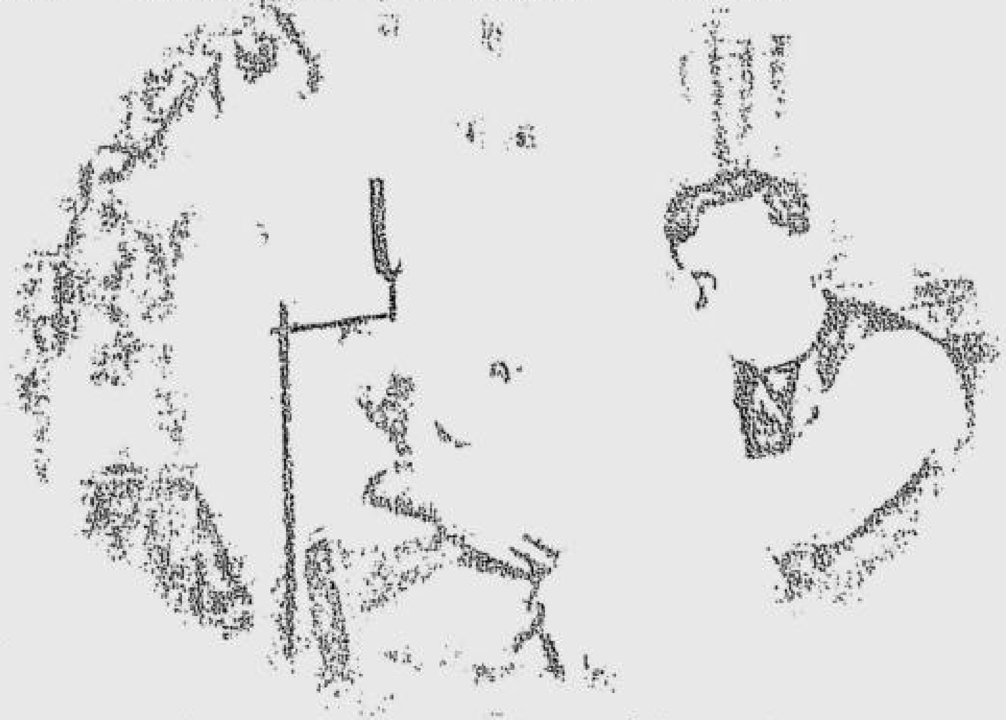

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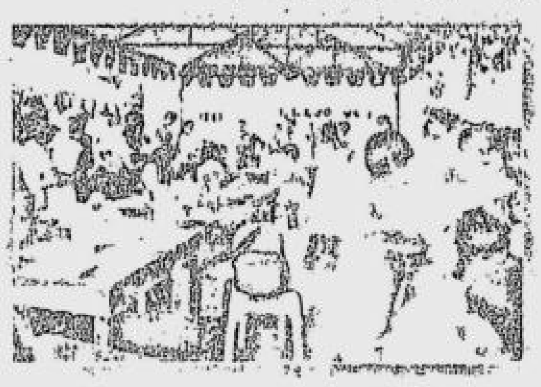

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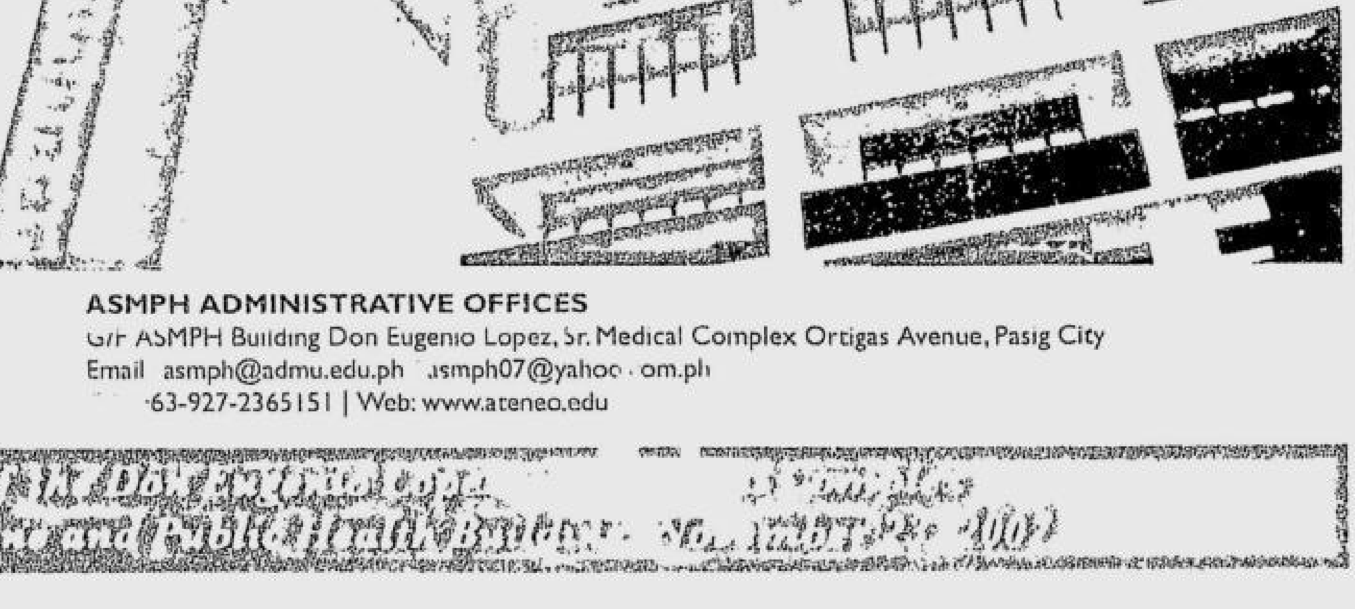

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Lacson: Romero not suspect but victim

From page A1

Romero's account another "corruptible act."

When he was asked yesterday if he was convinced Romero's bank account was the source of the cash, Lacson said: "I'm not saying that."

Still, Lacson maintained that his unnamed sources at the DBM were "unimpeachable."

The Senate inquiry, among other things, seeks to pinpoint the origin of the P200,000 to P500,000 distributed in paper bags in Malacañang on the day President Macapagal-Arroyo met separately with 90 congressmen and 200 members of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines amid a fresh impeachment attempt against her.

The President's party, Kampi, has admitted distributing P500,000 each to two congressmen. The League of Provinces of the Philippines said it was the source of money handed out to local officials.

Burden of proof

In spite of the HLURB denial, Lacson said he planned to pursue the issue with the DBM.

ROMERO: Built Smokey Mountain low-cost housing

"Remember, we are not in a court of law. We are here investigating, looking for facts and information. We are here in aid of legislation. So this usual challenge of burden of proof, I'm not accusing anyone," Lacson said.

"We want to ferret out the truth behind the mystery of the cash gifts given in Malacañang. And I think every Filipino, particularly public officials like me, should really find out where the money came from."

Lacson said that at the budget deliberations next week he would demand a copy of the special allocation release order (Saro) from the DBM to prove the alleged HLURB disbursement and an explanation from the Philippine National Police on the alleged diversion of counterinsurgency funds to the cash gifts for the lawmakers.

He denied being on a trawling exercise when he implicated Romero and the PNP as the sources of the cash gifts.

No fishing expedition

"I'm not here on a fishing expedition. I'm here to help ferret out the truth in an investigation involving the mysterious distribution of cash gifts, which is now being denied by Malacañang and in spite of it happening right inside Malacañang grounds, they still deny it. So what is there to believe from them anyway, they deny everything," Lacson said.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya yesterday said his office had not disbursed any money to the HLURB or Romero as alleged by Lacson.

"We checked with HLURB (last Wednesday) and we did not see any release there and the DBM has no system where it pays directly into the account of a private person," Andaya said in an interview over dzMM radio.

"We only deal with government agencies," he added.

Asked if the DBM might have released the money through the National Housing Authority (NHA), Andaya said he still had to check.

With a report from Christine O. Avendaño

Inquirer exhibits Cannes ...

From page A1

Said Romualdez: "The INQUIRER will continually support the Cannes cause and promote better partnership between agencies and clients to achieve greater creative excellence at par with the rest of the world."

The 20th PAC, which opened on Wednesday, runs until tomorrow.

'World's coolest'

Neil Gaiman, the much-celebrated author of the "Sandman" graphic novel series and "Stardust," opened the second day of the congress with a speech on "Imagination and Creativity in the Contemporary World."

Gaiman praised the wealth and originality of Filipino folklore, which he described as "the coolest folklore in the world."

He encouraged Filipino writers not to be afraid to explore their talents, and to just "write and finish it."

On the usefulness of advertising, Gaiman said: "Advertising is incredibly useful when well done."

The three-day Cannes Lions exhibit—on view on the second floor of the convention center—showcases the works of the world's best creative people in advertising and marketing.

In 2004, the INQUIRER was appointed the official Philippine representative to the Cannes International Advertising Festival. It was the first time a Filipino delegation took part in the prestigious advertising festival that gathers more than 8,000 delegates from 70 countries worldwide.

Superlatives

"One of superlatives" was how the organizers of the 20th PAC described the ongoing biennial event.

For one, the number of delegates—3,334, of whom 700 are students—has surpassed that in previous congresses. There were 2,600 delegates in the 2005 PAC.

"We've made a record of sorts," Ong told reporters shortly before the congress opened on Wednesday night.

This congress is also being held in the largest plenary hall, with the delegates having their meals in the largest dining area.

It likewise boasts the largest trade exhibit area.

"There are many firsts in [PAC] history, and they will all happen here. The sessions are the most interesting yet, as this is the first ad congress that has more than 20 speakers," Ong said.

Also on Wednesday night, the INQUIRER hosted a dinner during which it unveiled a new logo representing the merger of its other publications and printing press.

Dressed in a grass skirt in keeping with the luau-themed dinner, Romualdez announced that the Inquirer Group of Publications would now be simply known as the Inquirer Group.

Tycoon's challenge

Chinese-Filipino tycoon John Gokongwei Jr. delivered the keynote address on opening night, retelling the story of his success in entrepreneurship and challenging Filipinos to think of the world as their market.

Gokongwei, chair emeritus of JG Summit Holdings Inc., urged the PAC delegates "to excel as entrepreneurs before the world" and to "create Filipino brands for the global market place."

"With a world-class brand, we create pride for our nation," he said, adding:

"Why serve 86 million when you can sell to four billion Asians? And that's just to start you off. Because there is still the world beyond Asia.

"When you go back to your offices, think of ways to sell and market your products and services to the world ... You can if you really try. I did. As a boy, I sold peanuts from my backyard. Today, I sell snacks to the world. I want to see other Filipinos do the same."

Gokongwei first told his life story five years ago at the launch of the Ateneo de Manila School of Management, which was named after him. That was a few months before he embarked on mobile services.

His life story apparently continues to inspire, as proven by the standing ovation he received from the PAC delegates at the end of his speech.

34th richest man

Gokongwei, who is listed by Forbes as the 34th richest man in Southeast Asia with $425 million to his name, said that after five years of competing with two industry giants, his Digitel Telecommunications now counts on a 4-million subscriber base. He told of having to sell goods at 13 in the market in Cebu, where he was born. By then his father, whose empire was built on credit, had died, and he had become the man of the family.

"After this experience, I told myself, 'If I can compete with people so much older than me, if I can support my whole family at 15, I can do anything!'"

Gokongwei's trading business eventually branched out to Manila. He went up against two cornstarch manufacturing giants, also in Cebu, and into importation after World War II.

He ventured into food manufacturing and bought shares in San Miguel Corp.

The Gokongweis also own Cebu Pacific, Robinsons malls, Universal Robina Corp. and a beverage company that makes the C2 fun drink.

'The man that I am'

"Looking back, I wonder, what would have happened if my father had not left my family with nothing? Would I have become the man I am? Who knows?" Gokongwei said.

He added: "I am 81 today. But I do not forget the little boy that I was in the *palengke* in Cebu. I still believe in family. I still want to make good. I still don't mind going up against those older and better than me. I still believe hard work will not fail me. And I still believe in people willing to think the same way.

"Through the years, the market place has expanded—between cities, between countries, between continents. I want to urge you all here to think bigger."

Writing dirty wins int'l award for PDI reporter

From page A1

Sanitation and Hygiene (EASAN).

The stories of Ortiz, and two others from Jakarta, bested more than 40 entries from Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, the Netherlands and the Philippines.

The entries came from news agencies/wire services, television stations, radio stations, newspapers and news portals, the World Bank said.

Ortiz's story, "Curbing water pollution," deals with how bodies of water in Metro Manila and the rest of the country have become polluted and the steps that can be taken to prevent the problem from worsening.

She wrote the story after attending a World Bank water and sanitation workshop in Bangkok, Thailand, earlier this year.

The story appeared in the INQUIRER's Talk of the Town section on Aug. 26.

"Unknown to many Filipinos, their homes are the biggest source of water pollution in the country," Ortiz said in her article. "Forty-eight percent of organic pollution comes from households. In contrast, agriculture contributes 37 percent and industries just 15 percent [to the problem]."

"Septic Tank Record for Indonesia" by Elly Roosita of Kompas (Daily) and "Water Shortage Spells Disease" by Ria Ernunsari of Televisi Transformasi Indonesia (Trans TV) also won in the contest organized by the World Bank Water and Sanitation Program for East Asia and the Pacific.

Roosita and Ernunsari are both from Jakarta.

Quality of reporting

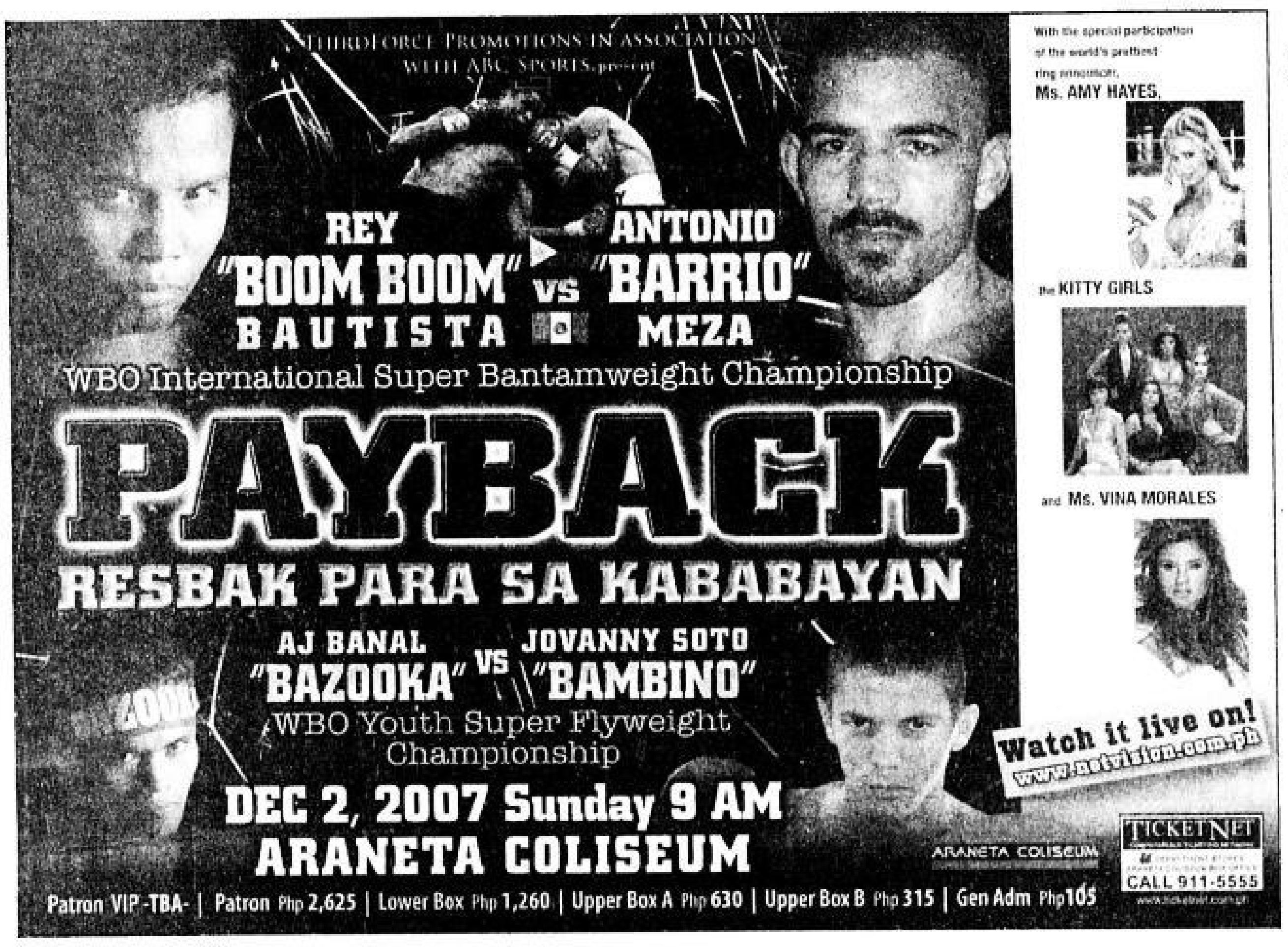
Entries were scored on a scale of 1 to 4 (4 being the highest) based on the following four criteria—quality of reporting (thoroughness and accuracy in presentation of issues); ability to relate sanitation to mainstream and socioeconomic issues; creativity in approach to, and presentation of sanitation issue; and potential impact on the public and policymakers.

The awards will be handed out in Beppu City, Japan, during the EASAN conference from Nov. 30 to Dec. 1.

Access to safe water

The two-day conference will bring together ministers and leading professionals from 15 East Asian countries to discuss actions to accelerate progress toward meeting the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets on sanitation, which aim to reduce by half by the year 2015 the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

The goals were contained in the Millennium Declaration adopted in September 2000 by 189 member states of the United Nations.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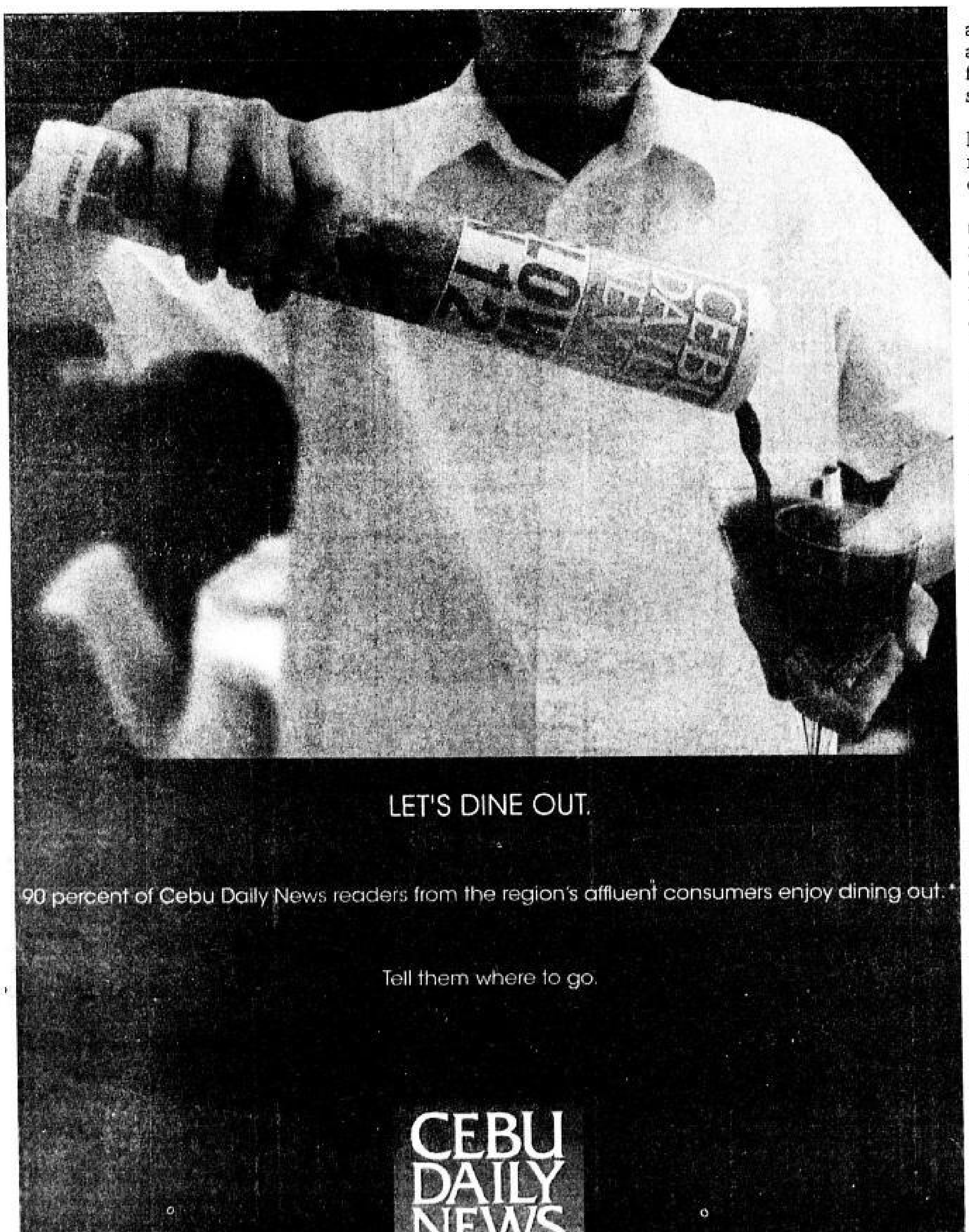
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House has better cheap medicine bill, says solon

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE HOUSE VERSION OF THE CHEAPER medicines bill is far superior to the one passed on third reading by the Senate, according to its principal author.

Iloilo Rep. Ferjenel Biron said House Bill No. 2844 was a "much better version" because it covered "almost all approaches needed to significantly reduce the prices of medicines."

One of these supposedly superior features is a provision regulating drug prices, a highly contentious issue that helped bury a cheaper medicines bill in the previous Congress.

"Let us not give any false hope to our countrymen. Without the cost-based price regulation mechanism, the cheaper medicines bill will remain a myth," Biron said in a statement.

"It is imperative that a drug price regulatory board be established for the sole purpose of regulating drug prices, particularly the life-saving ones," he said.

Main strategy

The main strategy to bring down drug prices recommended by the Senate version is the amendment of the Intellectual Property Code.

The lower chamber is still in the thick of deliberations on HB 2844, a consolidation of several measures, which congressmen have yet to pass on second reading.

Biron has threatened to withdraw his name from the House bill if the price regulation provision is omitted from the final version.

"The Senate version primarily focuses on amending the Intellectual Property Code to bring down the prices of medicines and invokes the Price Act or RA 7581 where the President is given the authority to control the prices of prime commodities including drugs and medicines," he said.

He said Sen. Manuel Roxas, the main author of the Senate bill, probably did not realize that the Price Act is applicable only in cases of national emergency or calamities.

Since the enactment of the law in 1991, no President has ever invoked this law in so far as addressing the exorbitant prices of medicines," he said.

Allowing the parallel importation of patented drugs, which the Senate also espouses, would not make a dent because these drugs cover less than 10 percent of the Philippine market, he said.

Chief justice laments high 'cost' of war

THE COSTS OF armed conflict that are usually "mere pissing contests" are taking their toll not just on the country's finances, but also on human life, security and liberty, Chief Justice Reynato Puno has lamented.

Puno also said the devastation brought by armed battles and the changing nature of war make International Humanitarian Law and its reexamination more important than ever.

According to him, International Humanitarian Law consists of the rules that apply during armed conflicts to protect persons who do not participate in battles, and to regulate the conduct of hostilities or the means and methods of warfare to prevent suffering.

In speaking out against war, Puno said armed conflict in the Philippines, particularly the battle between the government and the New People's Army, continues to wreak havoc on human life and takes away from other important sectors.

"Although the dead can no longer endure material want, the conflict continues to victimize the living and is taking its toll on our economy," he said during his closing remarks yesterday at the Fourth Metrobank Professorial Chair Lecture where Justice Adolf Azcuna spoke.

Puno pointed out that in 2006, the government put P1 billion toward military and logistical efforts, when the money could have been spent for other measures.

Leila B. Salaverria

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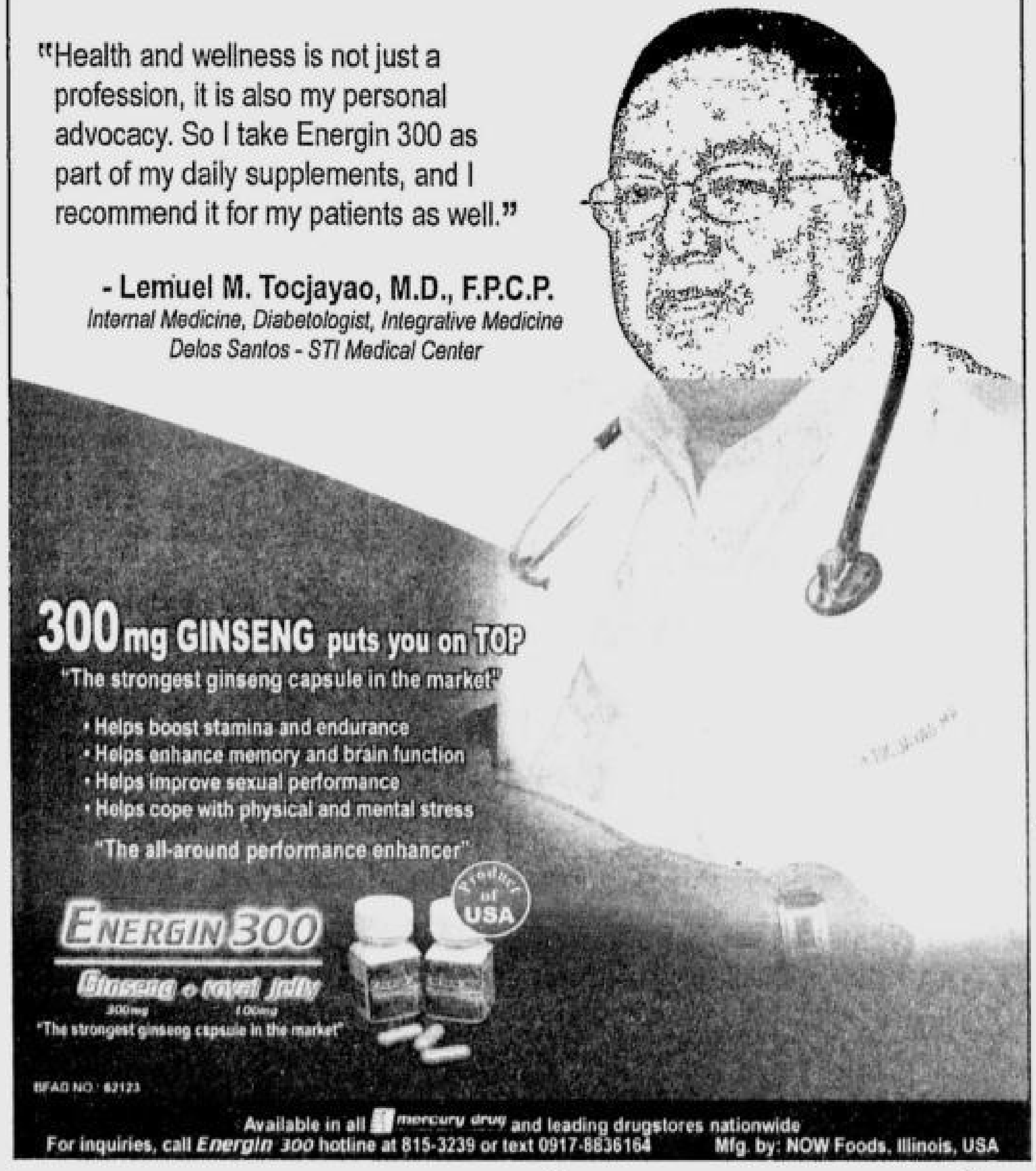
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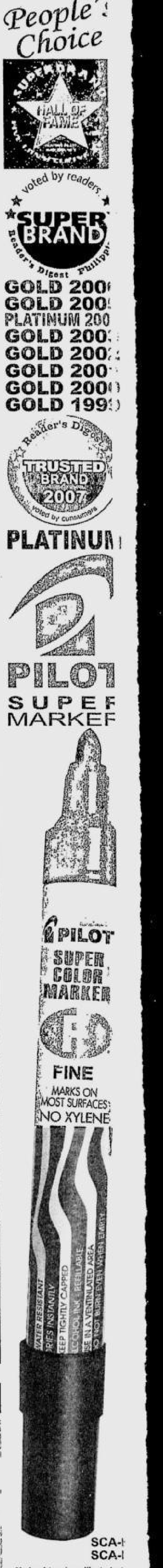
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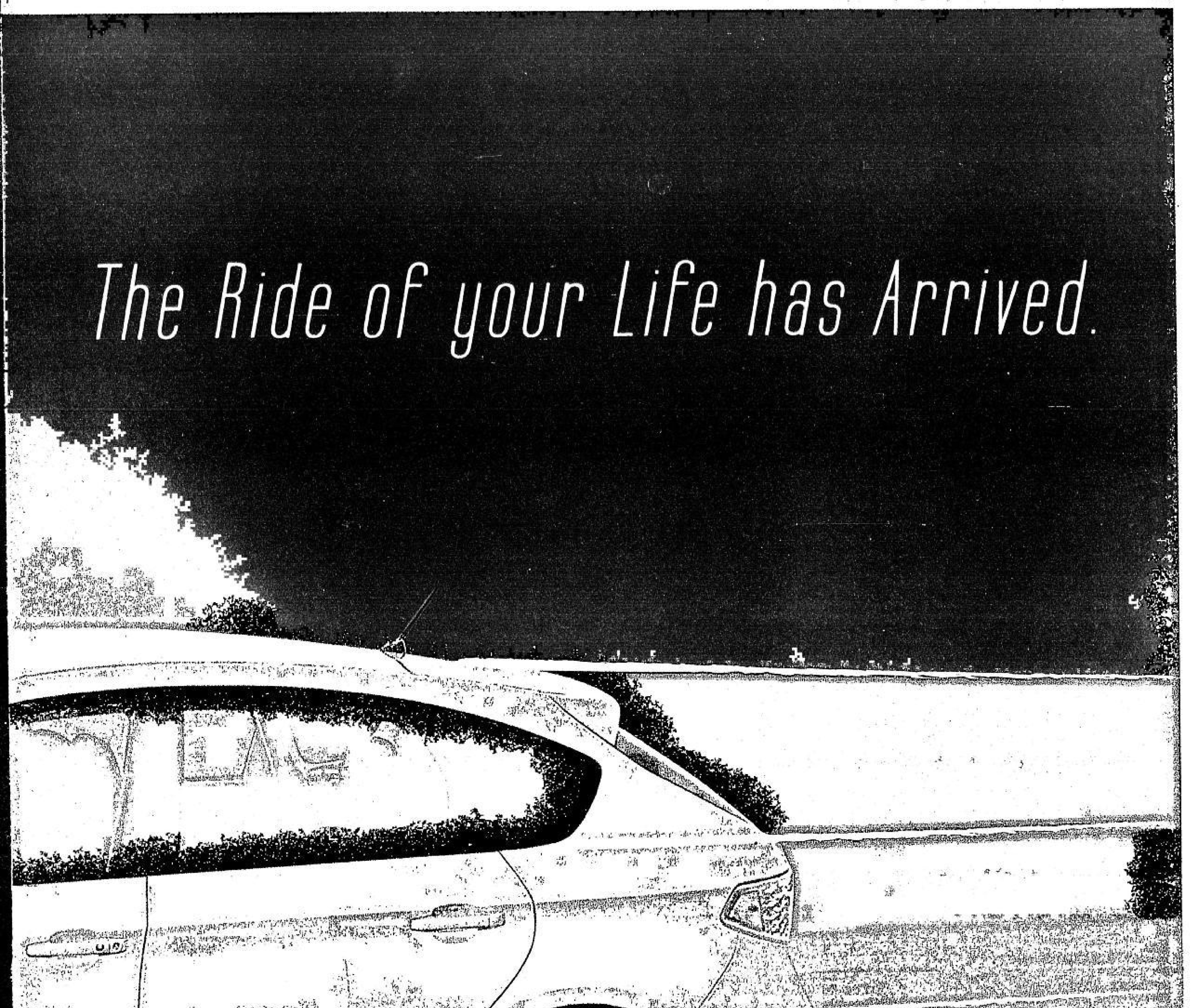

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•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 523-5570
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The low road

EDITORIAL

THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE news that the World Bank had suspended a $232-million loan to the Philippines has been so confusing we cannot help but ask: What is the Arroyo administration trying to hide?

The specifics of the suspension are simple and clear enough, and are available on the World Bank website. The bank's board has deferred consideration of the second phase of the country's National Roads Improvement and Management Program, while it waits for the results of an internal investigation into alleged corrupt practices.

A statement by the bank's vice president for the East Asia and Pacific Region noted that: "Between 2003 and 2006, the World Bank rejected two large road contracts in three successive rounds of bidding because of strong signs of collusion and excessive pricing." These signs of possible corruption and overpricing prompted the bank to investigate. The statement added: "Investigative findings were discussed with the Philippines' relevant authorities who requested that the investigation proceed."

On the day the news of the suspension came out, Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. revealed that, as the INQUIRER reported it, he had "promptly ordered an inquiry into the three failed bids cited in the World Bank report."

We do not know when this alleged inquiry started. Ebdane seems to be under the impression that all the failed bids happened in one year. And his unilateral and (until the news came out) unknown decision to begin an inquiry does not align with Finance Secretary Margarito Teves' recollection, that he himself was briefed about the bank's internal probe last April, and that he had suggested that the bank involve the Ombudsman in the investigation. (Teves' DOF is the official borrower, while Ebdane's DPWH is only the implementing agency.)

Ebdane's "inquiry" reminds us of the same kind of "investigation" that Malacañang allegedly conducted after former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri told President Macapagal-Arroyo of a P200-million bribe attempt by the chairman of the Commission on Elections, or the same kind of "probe" that Malacañang allegedly conducted after reports surfaced that cash gifts for local executives and congressmen were distributed right in the Palace. In other words, it meets damage-control, for-public-consumption objectives.

The day after the news from the World Bank spread, Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde blamed "policy differences" among bank officials for the suspension of the loan. "The contracts might have become collateral damage. We were just caught in an internal row among the World Bank staff," he speculated.

This is an incompetent and dangerous spin; incompetent because it gets the chronology wrong, dangerous because it assumes no objective standards for corruption.

Remonde's "collateral damage" theory reminds us that the Arroyo administration's politicizing tendency has become second nature, so that even officials like Remonde use it without thinking.

In his turn, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya tried to finesse the news from Washington, D.C. "The board is not saying there were irregularities or there was collusion," he said in Filipino.

True enough, because it was the staff of the bank, not the members of its board, that reported the discovery of "strong signs of collusion and excessive pricing." But also false at the same time, because Andaya's statement insidiously suggests that no irregularities took place. In fact, as the statement from the bank specifically pointed out, actual irregularities led to the rejection of the two controversial road projects: "The rejected contracts, worth around $33 million, representing about 10 percent of the total project cost, were never financed by the World Bank."

Andaya also played word games with the media, saying that "technically speaking," the World Bank had not yet suspended the loan. The budget secretary can call it what he likes, but the fact is a decision on the second phase, which is scheduled to start this year, has been postponed. Technically speaking, that means work on the proposed roads cannot start.

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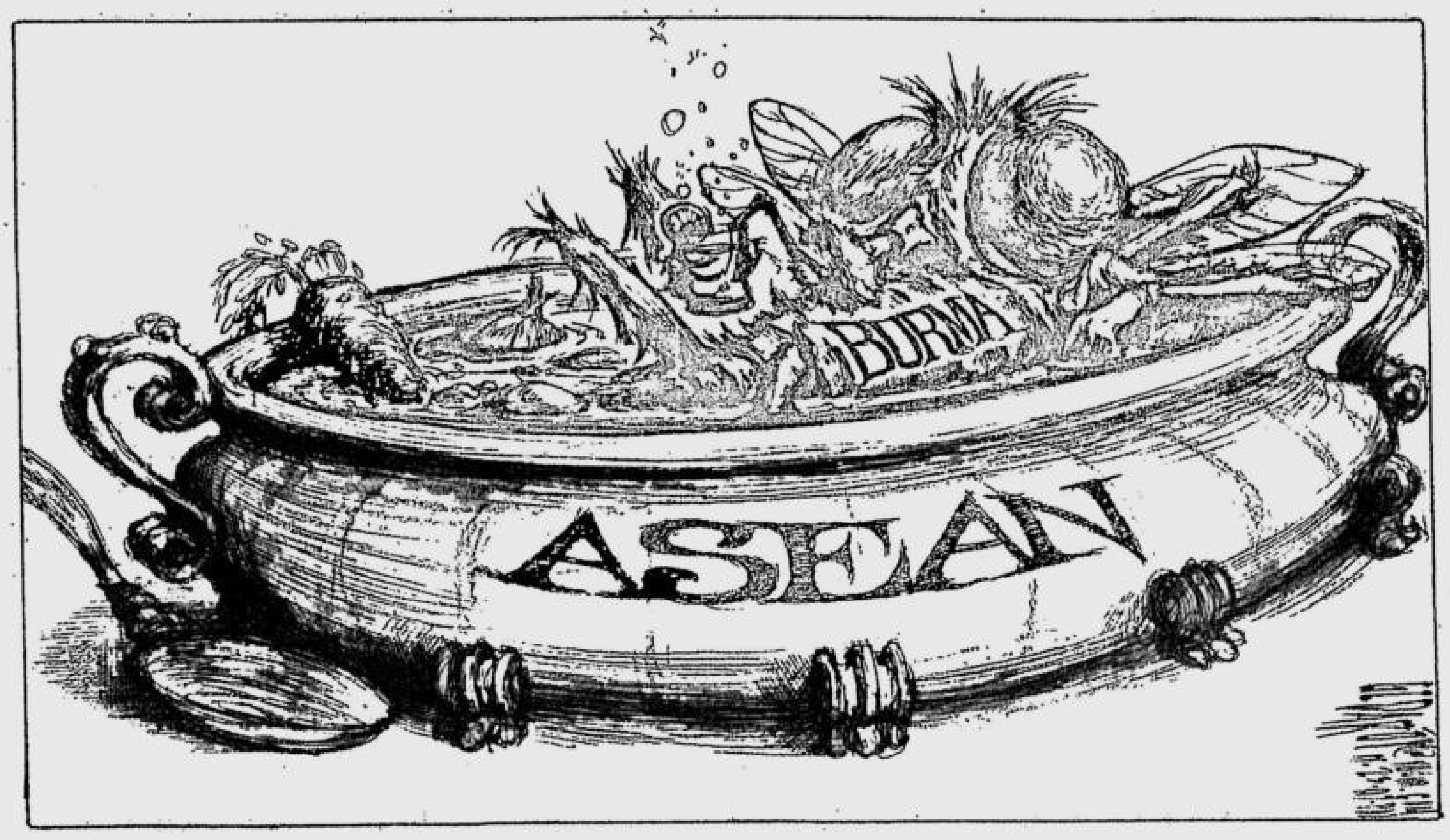

Biofuel bill will free us from Opec—Zubiri

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

IT IS NOT ONLY THE EPIRA (ELECTRIC POWER Industry Reform Act) that should be amended but also the Oil Deregulation Law. Also, there should be similar anti-trust legislation in the cement and pharmaceutical industries.

The most important amendment to the Epira is the restoration of the ban on cross ownership. Cross ownership is when a distribution company, like Meralco, also owns, through sister companies, generating plants. The ban was in the original version of the Epira but it was removed in the version that was passed because of lobbying by vested interests.

Cross ownership gives the related corporations advantages over their competitors. They can do business with each other at higher rates, to the detriment of consumers. The intent of Epira is to force rates down through competition, but cross ownership avoids competition. For example, Meralco buys 80 percent of its power needs from its sister companies at higher rates and only 20 percent from Napocor which has much lower rates. The higher rates are passed on to the consumers.

On the Oil Deregulation Law, an important amendment should be an open-ended transition period where there is price control. This is to allow new competitors time to compete significantly with the entrenched oil companies. Again, the intent of the deregulation law is to make competition force prices down. That is not happening now because there is no true competition. The Lilliputian new players just buy their finished products from the Big Three and sell them at an overprice to consumers. The players collude on prices because there is no price control.

On medicine, prices are high because there is no competition among the pharmaceutical companies. The foreign companies have a cartel that fixes prices sky-high for maximum profit. There is no anti-trust law to prevent them from doing that. The cheaper medicines bill will answer some of that, but it may not be enough.

There is also a cement cartel here. Almost all the cement companies are owned by big foreign companies and they can fix prices at will (cement imports are taxed sky-high). That is why homes are beyond the reach of poor families and the government spends unusually large amounts of taxpayers' money on infrastructure.

We should have strong anti-trust laws to prevent cartels and oligopolies. The United States has effective anti-trust laws, why can't we have the same?

* * *

Of course, the Arroyo administration has to deny that corruption was behind the suspension of World Bank loans to the Philippines. "*Nagbabangon-puri*" is the term in Filipino. It even blames "internal turmoil" in the WB as the reason.

But Filipinos already know that corruption is an epidemic in this country. It has contaminated the whole Philippine society, from Malacañang down to the traffic enforcers and the office clerks. They know that from one-third to one-half of the budgets for infrastructure projects are lost in kickbacks to congressmen, national and local officials. The wonder is that the World Bank and other lending institutions did not know or recognize this sooner.

If the bank finally suspends loans to the Philippines, it would be justified. Most of its funds come from American taxes. Why should it lend their money to a country which would squander it in corruption, like the large-scale bribery done recently in Malacañang? Loans are granted to poor countries to help their development, not to make corrupt officials rich.

The Arroyo administration should shape up. Let's face it, the era of easy loans is over. Oil exporting countries used to have so much money they were offering to lend it to whoever was willing to accept it, like the Philippines. That is why we have a gargantuan debt problem. But those funds are drying up because these nations have embarked on ambitious and expensive construction projects. And they are not only squeezing the easy loans but demanding prompt payment for them. The Philippines should learn to tighten its belt and make sure that from now on, every tax peso collected is used efficiently, not lost to corruption.

* * *

Back to the price of energy. Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, who was a guest at the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday, thinks that because of the escalating price of oil, the Senate should prioritize the Renewable Energy Bill that would lessen our dependence on non-renewable fossil fuels like oil and coal. The bill encourages the use of agricultural crops like sugarcane, coconut, corn, cassava and *tuba-tuba* for ethanol and cocodiesel.

"The $100 per barrel forecast may be breached even before December this year," he said. "It will push up consumer prices and depress job generation. Households pay bigger power rates, rising prices of food and other basic goods, factories postpone expansion plans or lay off workers and government agencies providing health, education and administrative services are hampered as they are heavily dependent on continuous supply of power."

If the Renewable Energy Bill is successful, the Philippines may be the second country (after Brazil) that will no longer be dependent on imported fuel. We are already the world's second largest producer of geothermal energy and source as much as 50 percent of our renewable energy from hydropower. We have plenty of sunlight for solar power, strong winds for wind power, big waves for wave power. The only thing lacking is the technology to harness them. The technology for renewable biofuels is already there. All we have to do is plant the fuel crops and build the plants that will convert these crops into energy.

Nixon to GMA: Take the cue, join the queue

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS INvoked executive privilege so often against the Senate—and her subalterns have effectively boycotted the Senate proceedings—that we should recall the question that US Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell, during the oral argument in US v. Nixon, asked of President Richard Nixon's lawyer: "Mr. St. Clair, what public interest is there in preserving secrecy with respect to a criminal conspiracy?" A unanimous court found none, and Nixon, the most famous stonewaller in the field of constitutional law, soon resigned in disgrace.

The scandal began during the 1972 presidential campaign when Nixon was running for reelection, and there was a burglary at his opponent's campaign headquarters at the Watergate building in Washington, D.C. Journalists found links to the White House, and public opinion forced Nixon to appoint an independent prosecutor, Harvard law professor Archibald Cox.

Cox would soon subpoena the tapes of incriminating Oval Office conversations, and a furious Nixon immediately had him fired in what history would call the Saturday Night Massacre. Cox was replaced by Leon Jaworski who, in the subsequent criminal charges filed against the Watergate masterminds (except for Nixon), obtained a subpoena for the White House tapes.

In US v. Nixon, the court conceded the basis for executive privilege. It includes "state secrets" and insulates national security information, e.g., those involving military and foreign affairs. Even more, the court generously extended the privilege to "confidential executive deliberations" even where no national security interest is at stake, because the president needs candid and unfettered advice that is possible only if his advisors are assured of secrecy. "Human experience teaches that those who expect public dissemination of their remarks may well temper candor with a concern for appearances…."

Nixon did not make any specific claim of confidentiality, only a general claim that the privilege should extend to presidential conversations even when national security is not at stake. Not so, Chief Justice Warren Burger, a Nixon appointee, wrote. "The President's need for complete candor and objectivity from advisors calls for great deference from the courts. However, when the privilege depends solely on the broad, undifferentiated claim of public interest in the confidentiality of such conversations, a confrontation with other values arises."

He concluded: "Neither the doctrine of separation of powers, nor the need for confidentiality of high-level communications, without more, can sustain an absolute, unqualified presidential privilege of immunity from judicial process under all circumstances."

Yet such a "broad, undifferentiated claim" was precisely what President Arroyo stated, when she said she would invoke the privilege after former Neda Director General Romulo Neri testified at the Senate on the ZTE bribe attempt. "It's a matter of discipline," she said to the Malacañang press corps during her three-day India visit in October. (Note that Nixon was fighting a court, while Arroyo argues against a Senate inquiry; not that it should matter here since several criminal conspiracies have emerged and, if there have been no indictments, it's just that the Ombudsman and the Department of Justice, which are so vocal against Erap, are so reticent against Palace allies.)

Since the 1974 Nixon ruling, the first US president to invoke the privilege was Bill Clinton. He was compelled to testify in the Monica Lewinsky affair, a notoriously personal if not intimate matter. Recently, however, George W. Bush has invoked the privilege more often, against congressional inquiries on matters indubitably public in nature. One was the shooting of Special Forces soldier Pat Tillman, a former football pro, whose death by friendly-fire was initially covered up by the US military. The other was on Attorney-General Alberto Gonzalez's mass firing of federal prosecutors deemed insufficiently loyal to Bush (and for which Gonzalez later resigned).

Yet another relevant angle for Filipinos is whether the privilege may be invoked to benefit a presidential spouse. In the case of Hillary Clinton, there was actually an attempt to call for the records of the Health Reform Commission to which the president had assigned her, and commentators widely recognized the policy counsel historically given by first ladies, from Martha Washington to Barbara Bush. Whether that applies to the First Gentleman's "Back off!" might soon be tested in Philippine law, because after all he said that he was merely dispensing sage counsel to the young impertinent Joey de Venecia.

The most famous presidential conversation in Philippine history, of course, was immortalized in the Garci tapes—for which, surely, no claim of immunity can conceivably apply.

In American constitutional law, any president who invokes executive privilege does so, as one law review essay put it, "In Nixon's Shadow." The difference here in Manila, however, is one of attitude. Cox, upon being fired, stated: "Whether ours shall be a government of laws and not of men is now for Congress and ultimately the American people to decide."

The US Congress decided, and it impeached Nixon. The Philippine Congress has also decided, and instead immunized Arroyo from impeachment—and gloriously proclaimed their dastardly act as the triumph of the rule of law. Therein lies one source of GMA's bravado in following Nixon's footsteps, confident that she won't go over the brink. Here we have a President who first came to power on the back of the most creative reading of the Constitution and who now holds a people captive by the most literal meanings of the rule of law.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Burma wins showdown in Asean

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

BURMA'S BRUTAL MILITARY DICTATORSHIP emerged the winner in its showdown with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Singapore last Monday when it forced Asean to cancel a briefing for Asean leaders by the United Nations special envoy to Burma, Ibrahim Gambari. The cancellation proved to be a dramatic anti-climax that overshadowed the signing of Asean's first charter, hailed as a landmark document designed to transform Asean into a rules-bound regional organization along the lines of the European Union.

The abortion of Gambari's planned briefing not only made shallow Singaporean Foreign Minister George Yeo's glowing accolade that the charter "will take us an important step forward in the regional integration to a higher level." Rather, the results of the summit highlighted the Asean's split over Burma, a problem member since it was admitted into the organization 10 years ago.

In a rare event that cracked Asean's façade of solidarity achieved by papering over members' foreign policy differences with Asian-style decision through consensus and their time-honored rule of non-interference in one another's internal affairs, the Philippines dared to be different on the Burma issue. President Macapagal-Arroyo sounded a discordant note when she blasted Burma's military leaders as "forces of authoritarianism" for the continued detention of Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. In an undisguised rebuke of Asean's soft approach toward Burma, she showed up Asean's hypocrisy and double talk on Burma. She also warned that the charter faced rejection by the Philippine Congress when it comes up for ratification by parliaments of the 10 member states of Asean.

On the eve of the signing of the charter, Ms Arroyo warned Asean summit leaders: "The belief of the Filipino people and the Philippine Congress, as well as my own, is that those who will sign the charter agree to the objective, spirit and intent of establishing a human rights body—the full protection of human rights within the Asean . . . With this in mind, the expectation of the Philippines is that if Myanmar signs the charter, it is committed to returning to the path of democracy and release Aung San Suu Kyi. Until the Philippine Congress sees that happen, it would find extreme difficulty in ratifying the Asean charter."

She later told reporters, "While we are pleased that we have incorporated language in the charter that advances human rights and democracy, we remain concerned that the forces of authoritarianism still move rather slowly towards democracy in Myanmar."

The charter commits Asean members, including Burma, "to strengthen democracy, enhance good governance and the rule of law and to promote human rights and fundamental freedom." Although the charter seeks to give Asean a legal identity with a framework of rules and calls for the establishment of a human rights body, it emasculates that body by not providing details or punitive measures for members breaching its rules.

The charter shows that Asean intends to hold on to its principles of non-interference and decision-making by the elements that have inhibited Asean from putting effective pressure on the Burmese junta to move toward democracy.

The tough Philippine position planted a land mine of stronger tensions between Manila and its key Asean partners over Burma, essentially on the principle of non-interference and decision by consensus. If Congress does not ratify the charter, it would plunge Asean into a crisis of credibility and unity. The charter must be ratified by all 10 Asean member countries before it can take effect. Given the more liberal democratic political culture of the Philippines and the independence of the Senate, and the strong human rights inclinations of Philippine culture, we can see the explosive potential of Philippine non-ratification to fracture Asean solidarity.

The summit decided on Monday to cancel Gambari's briefing after Burma's Prime Minister Thein Sein objected, saying that the crackdown in Burma was a "domestic thing," and that Burma was capable of handling the situation by itself." Sein said Gambari should report only to the UN Security Council. Burma invoked the Asean principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of its members. This put Singapore on the spot as host and chair of the summit. Most Asean members were upset that Singapore had invited Gambari to brief the summit without consulting them.

The Philippines supported Singapore in the invitation. In the decision to cancel the briefing, Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, said: "Most leaders expressed the view that Myanmar could not go back or stay put. The process of national reconciliation had to move forward and the UN should take a vital role in this process."

The Philippines and Singapore were overruled in the decision to cancel the briefing. Philippine officials asked: "If the charter is signed, what happens after that? Will they (Burma) continue to string us along as they have done in the past 10 years?"

In an effort to save face, Lee indicated that the cancellation should not be seen that Asean had caved in to Burmese pressure. He said the Burmese crisis should not detract from the significance of the signing the charter as a "strategic move" toward deepening regional integration.

The cancellation left a deep fissure in the Asean. President Arroyo planted the time bomb after getting a private briefing from Gambari, who told her "little progress" had been made in negotiating a political reconciliation in Burma.

From kings to 'managers in blue jeans'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"WHO'S THE MAN BEHIND YOU?" I ASKED OF the officers of the Siam Cement Group who had joined us for lunch at the Guest House of the SCG headquarters in Bangkok.

"He's King Rama VI," they replied, referring to one of a string of Siamese monarchs who had recognized the need to bring their country in step with modernization and introduced vital reforms. King Rama VI, who is depicted in his portrait as a rather rotund individual with a receding hairline, clad in the full regalia of a military officer, had ordered the founding of a cement company 94 years ago, fully aware that accelerating the development of his country demanded a steady, reliable supply of building materials, foremost of which was cement. The king was therefore the founder of SCG, which is today, as its company promotional material states, "a leading industrial conglomerate in Asean, comprising five core businesses focused on chemicals, paper, cement, building materials, and distribution."

While it is now a publicly-held company, SCG still maintains ties with the Thai royal family, since approximately 30 percent of shares are held by the Bureau of the Crown Property.

The original cement plant was constructed and managed for many years by Danish engineers. In fact, the Guest House where our media group from the Philippines was hosted for lunch, was the residence of the first Danish engineers. It's a European style structure, with dark wooden shutters and a gleaming wooden floor that stands in the midst of a garden and near a wooden temple or *wat* that had been built to receive King Bhumibol during a visit to SCG on the occasion of the company's 50th anniversary. Apart from the Guest House, the only relic of the company's beginnings is the smokestack of the old, inoperable plant, visible in the distance from the company headquarters.

* * *

TODAY, SCG is in the hands of an entirely Thai management, headed by president and CEO Kan Trakulhoon, whom The Nation has dubbed a "CEO in blue jeans," for his penchant for wearing blue jeans during informal company functions.

SCG is also aggressively pursuing an active presence in the Southeast Asian market, including the Philippines. Chaovalit Ekabut, president of SCG Paper, recalled that 30 or 40 years ago, its management first decided to diversify its interests, going into paper, chemicals, building materials and distribution, aside from cement. In the Philippines, SCG has investments in United Pulp and Paper Co. (UPPC), after buying out its partner Phinma in 2003; Mariwasa Siam Ceramics Inc.; CPAC Monier Philippines, a manufacturer and distributor of high quality concrete roof tiles, fitting and accessories; and SCT, a trading company.

Both UPPC and Mariwasa are market leaders in their field and, with the other firms, comprise a total of P10 billion in assets, generating a total revenue of P7.5 billion last year.

Aside from the Philippines, SCG is also present in Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia and India.

The scale of SCG investment in Vietnam and Cambodia, said Ekabut, is much larger than in the Philippines because, first of all, "we already had a production base in your country." While in Vietnam and Cambodia, "we are just starting" and faced with the need to build basic infrastructure.

* * *

FOUR "core values" underlie SCG's way of doing business, we were told time and again in the course of our sessions with SCG executives: adherence to fairness, belief in the value of the individual, concern for social responsibility, and dedication to excellence.

We had a chance to view for ourselves one of SCG's corporate social responsibility projects when we visited Wat Po Sri Su Kha Ram School, which SCG Paper supports. In accordance with company guidelines, the school was chosen as a beneficiary because it lies within a five-kilometer radius of the WangSala Complex, which houses the paper mill of SCG Paper's Kraft Industry Ltd. Children of many mill employees likewise go to school there.

We were shown the new library refurbished and furnished by SCG, as well as the new child development center, while being entertained with traditional Thai music and dances by the students. In addition, SCG also supports a lunch feeding program, as well as scholarships for deserving students.

The same principle holds in SCG locations abroad. In the Philippines, said UPPC vice president Suchai Korprasertsri, the company conducts CSR activities in the area within a five-kilometer radius of the UPPC plant in Calumpit, Bulacan. Misfrancia Balagtas of UPPC recalled some activities, including medical and dental missions and even a training session for future hairdressers conducted by noted hair stylist and beauty salon mogul Ricky Reyes.

* * *

SCG executives are also justifiably proud of the company's environmental record. At the WangSala Complex, the quality promotion manager noted that "our production increased even as our water consumption has decreased." The plant also put in place a water treatment and recycling facility which drastically reduces the amount of effluents flowing back into a nearby river.

Company executives and employees are drafted into regular environmental protection projects, among them the building of "check dams," small earth, stone and wooden dams designed to slow, if not eliminate, water flowing down denuded mountainsides.

Being a paper company, SCG Paper is also aware of the need to conserve trees, leading it to manage tree plantations (of mainly eucalyptus trees) to create a ready source of raw material. Nevertheless, about 70 percent of its paper is sourced from waste paper, "which makes us the largest paper recycler in our country," said Yunyong Puttaipipat, managing director of the plant.

The Pinoy who would be white

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN commemorations of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and a number of countries, like the United States, Japan and France. These countries, together with Germany, Great Britain, Belgium and China, had consulates in Manila even in the 19th century, when the Philippines was still a Spanish colony. There was something almost magical that happened when, after World War II, the United States finally decided to recognize the independence of the Philippines, transforming it into a free and independent nation capable of handling its own internal and foreign affairs.

Because there were a number of commemorations with different countries, it was normal to go deeper into history in an attempt to outdo each other in finding a link beyond the establishment of formal diplomatic relations. Of course, no country can beat China, whose relationship with the Philippines goes back a thousand years as evidenced by Tang period (9th century A.D.) ceramics in our archeological record, but then it is still worth a try.

Last June, with the encouragement of French Ambassador Gerard Chesnel, a symposium was held at the Ateneo de Manila School of Social Sciences on Philippine-French relations that brought together academics and even descendants of early French settlers in the Philippines. In his opening address, Chesnel traced the relationship between France and the Philippines all the way to the French sailors in the ill-fated Magellan expedition of 1521. One can only speculate if these Frenchmen died in the waters of Mactan during the encounter with Lapu-lapu, or whether they were taken prisoner and later sold to Chinese traders as slaves. It has been a standing joke between me and Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, who hails from Cebu, that he should work double-time to make up for the killing of our first tourists by Lapu-lapu.

Last Wednesday, a symposium was held at the National Museum tracing the relations between the Philippines and Italy. It dawned on me that Italy fared better than France, because the chronicler of the Magellan expedition was the Italian Antonio Pigafetta. But then if you go back to the four earliest manuscripts of the Pigafetta account of Magellan's voyage, you would be surprised to note that three are in French and the only one in Italian happens to be in an obscure Venetian dialect.

When asked to name Italian primary sources on Philippine history, two names come to mind: first, of course, is Pigafetta who visited the Visayas in 1521, and then Giovanni Francesco Gemelli Careri, who visited Manila from May to June 1696. The works of both are filled with obscure but interesting details about geography, language, the appearance and customs of the people they encountered, fruits, animals, flora and fauna. While Pigafetta was a pioneer, Careri had recourse to earlier travel accounts of the Philippines and it is believed that he lifted from these works, particularly "Labor evangelica" (Madrid, 1663) by the Jesuit Francisco Colin. Nevertheless, Careri makes fascinating reading, especially with his detailed description of Spanish Manila.

Over the years, I have fed this column from travel accounts of the Philippines by foreigners. I wonder if it would be useful someday to turn the tables around. Instead of learning about the Philippines from the eyes of foreigners, wouldn't it be just as engaging to learn about foreign countries through the eyes of early Filipino travelers? One rich source is the well-traveled Jose Rizal who was a compulsive diarist. Then there are his contemporaries: Antonio and Juan Luna, Marcelo H. del Pilar and Mariano Ponce whose writings are usually mined for material on the propaganda movement in Spain rather than their impressions of the countries they visited. The great cities of the world are covered—London, Paris, Madrid and even New York—but Italy seems underrepresented even if it was, then as now, a prime tourist destination.

One of the early Filipino travel accounts is that of a secular priest named Villafranca who was in Rome in the 19th century. He narrated his visit to St. Peter's at a time when the Pope was being carried around in a sedan. While dispensing blessings on the crowd, the Pope noticed the priest with brown skin and Filipino features, and thus we have an early face-to-face encounter between a Pinoy and the Pope.

Then as now, there were travelers and OFWs in Europe. One can only wish that Filipinos will keep a journal rather than text or talk about their impressions. A written record would enrich our perspective today.

For example, Mateo de los Angeles was sent to Spain in the 18th century as caretaker of an albino deer from the Philippines, sent as a present to the King of Spain. The king placed both the *venado blanco* and its keeper in Buen Retiro, the royal reserve. De los Angeles eventually married, returned to the Philippines and fought on the Spanish side when the British sacked Manila. As reward for his services to the crown, he petitioned the king for a special favor: he wanted to be declared, by royal decree, as a white person.

Now this is but one of many obscure tales that can form part of President Macapagal-Arroyo's talking points for her forthcoming visit to Spain.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Anthro at 90

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

WHILE THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IS GEARING for its centennial next year, the anthropology department, one of the smallest in the university system, has been quietly observing its 90th anniversary. At 90, the department just might be the oldest in Asia; until recently, many documents would mention the anthropology department of the University of Calcutta as the earliest, but it was established in 1921, four years after UP's anthropology department.

Not being a product of UP's anthropology department, I knew very little about its history. But while serving as the department's chair for the last six years (and in for another three, condolences accepted), I have realized that even some of the older members of the faculty, themselves UP anthropology graduates, only have sketchy recollections of its history.

It took one of our younger faculty members, Carlos Tatel, to pursue a history of the department, which was only appropriate since he did his undergraduate work in history. Dig he did, plowing through often dusty old university catalogues, minutes of meetings and mimeographed hand-outs, to reconstruct the department's history. He still continues to pore through other files, now expanding his interest to a history of anthropology itself in the Philippines and sending excited texts whenever he discovers something new.

I've reviewed several drafts of Tatel's history and although it still has to be finalized, I thought I should share parts of our early history because it offers fascinating insights into Philippine history itself and, in particular, the US colonial period. This is my way, too, of "inaugurating" a series of articles around anthropology in the Philippines for which I'm going to shamelessly appeal to older UP graduates to send me their recollections of taking anthropology subjects, perhaps even of the entire degree program. Better still, if they have memorabilia from the department (photographs will do), we would love to borrow them for an exhibit next year. Write me at: michael.tan@up.edu.ph.

Colonial agenda

The first anthropology subject taught at UP was Anthropology 1, General Anthropology, first offered in 1914 and still being taught today. The course was handled by H. Otley Beyer, who had been recruited by UP from the Bureau of Science.

Beyer was one of many young Americans who had been lured to the Philippines with its promise of uncharted new territories. He stayed for the rest of his life in the Philippines, marrying a woman from Ifugao.

Beyer taught this new anthropology course as a faculty member of the history department. He had 17 students in his first class (that's the kind of detail historians uncover), including Marcelo Tangco, who would succeed Beyer as department chair when the latter retired in 1954.

Beyer continued his work with the Bureau of Science and the Philippine Museum, which allowed him access to information and resources that could be used in his Anthropology 1. And here lies the colonial agenda: the US government encouraged ethnological (cultural) research as a key to understanding the people in their new colony.

An anthropology department at UP was inevitable. In 1917, a separate department was formed, with Beyer as its head. He had two faculty members: Encarnacion Gonzaga and Cecilio Lim.

The new department offered 15 subjects. Two of the subjects were taught directly under the supervision of the secretary of the interior (our loose equivalent today would be the secretary of the interior and local government) and was intended to train people to work with "non-Christian peoples of the Philippines," again the largely unexplored (and unconquered) populations of the Philippines. The two courses were "The Social and Economic Life of the Mountain Peoples of the Philippines" and "The Government of Primitive Peoples."

The department also offered courses in linguistics, cultural anthropology, archaeology and physical anthropology. There were two physical anthropology courses: "Racial Anatomy of the Philippine Peoples" and "Research in Criminal Anthropology."

The names of the courses tell you where anthropology was coming from. Philippine anthropology, in those early formative years, carried an American perspective, which was in turn based on 19th-century evolutionist theories about societies moving from "savagery" to "barbarism" to "civilization." Even more importantly, such concepts dovetailed with their ideas about racial superiority and inferiority: the darker the skin, the more "primitive," with the White Man's Burden being to guide the more backward races toward civilization.

Foresight

I now include vignettes from the department history in all the courses I teach. I don't see it as a "dark past." Beyer and other Americans, who pioneered in the the American University of the Philippines (the original name of UP), were products of their times and we still have to credit them for opening up new opportunities to look into cultures of the Philippines.

A 1918 description of the anthropology department's offerings resonates with foresight in the way it looked at anthropology as "a broad foundation for advanced work in all subjects dealing with human society . . . as well as a basic training preparatory to the professional study of Law and Government, Education, and Business Administration. Certain courses are also of special value in connection with the professional study of Medicine, Public Welfare Work, Military Science, etc."

Today, the anthropology department is one of the university's most active providers of service courses for non-anthropology majors. We also have more masteral and doctoral students than undergraduates, people from all fields—from NGOs to church ministries—who see anthropology as providing new lenses for their profession. The anthropology graduates themselves? I've bumped into them in government offices, in local and international NGOs, in the United Nations system, in hospitals (as doctors), in theater groups and film outfits.

Two weekends ago during a curricular review, the department decided to retain the course "The Social and Economic Life of the Mountain Peoples of the Philippines." Carlos Tatel argued for keeping the course name, more as a historian, with an element of *sentimiento*, while Nestor Castro, another young (sort of) professor, said that rather than looking at "mountain peoples" as a pejorative term like "primitive," we might want to look at it in a more positive light, representing resistance to colonialism and lowlander culture, as well as an ability to survive and adapt.

At 90, the department is still a work in progress, and I'm encouraged working with anthropologists who see the past as an exciting window to the future. If we could just project that ethos to the way we work as a nation, we just might be able to move forward.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Walkways as means to save

WITH THE PETROLEUM PRICES GOING up and the problem of pollution getting worse, our government should encourage our people to walk more often or to take mass transits here in Metro Manila. I think our government should build more covered elevated walkways that connect schools, office establishments and malls to mass transits. Makati's elevated walkways connecting Glorietta all the way to Rufino Street and Cubao's LRT-MRT "connection" are good examples.

Imagine how much gasoline we can save if people walk around the area of Manuela Mall-Shangri-La Mall-SM Megamall-Robinsons Galleria-La Salle Greenhills in Ortigas and Emerald Avenue where a lot of offices are located? Or if we can connect the MRT-GMA station to all the government agencies in East Avenue and around the Quezon City circle.

How about building a covered walkway connecting the streets (that easily get flooded when it rains) around the University of Santo Tomas and other schools along the University Belt to the LRT? An elevated walkway would keep pedestrians from rain and scorching sun and even flood.

It is ironic that the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority is implementing the color coding scheme and providing for U-turn slots to help improve traffic in Metro Manila while building more roads to accommodate more cars.

I suggest that we rechannel the funds for new roads to allow us to build elevated walkways that would help people reach their destination faster and save on gasoline.

—CIARA CHUA,
ciara_chua@yahoo.com

Who are responsible for the bombings in Metro Manila?

UP TO THIS POINT, WE DON'T KNOW the mastermind(s) of the bombing that killed four people, including Rep. Wahab Akbar, at the House of Representatives last Nov. 13. We also do not know the motive behind the crime and what the mastermind(s) would do next.

I agree that the bombing is very alarming and we should take into consideration the possibility that the people behind it might just be taking a rest and biding their time to launch another attack.

Another point: we have seen lots of bombings in Metro Manila and yet it seems, until now, that we have yet to come up with clear-cut answers as to who were responsible for those dastardly crimes.

All I am asking is: What is the government's immediate plan of action to effectively address and avert such threats and ensure that there will be no more bombings in the future?

—VANESSA KAREN T. FAJARDO,
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Asean: a social club and a bunch of ninnies

EVEN THOUGH PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo made some belated noises during the recent Asean summit, threatening that the Philippines would not ratify the Asean charter unless Burma (Myanmar) was brought to heel, the organization nevertheless emerged once again as a feckless grouping.

I watched former Asean Secretary General Rodolfo Severino being interviewed over the BBC; his mealy-mouthed performance made my toes curl. He never answered questions directly about the Burmese junta's recent vile behavior toward its citizens, obviously preferring to sound "diplomatic" by not criticizing that vile regime.

Severino personifies the rest of the Asean members by displaying such pusillanimous spinelessness.

Ever since its inception in 1967, Asean has promised much and delivered little. Today it's mainly a social club in which members get together each year to sweet-talk each other about economic and cultural cooperation.

Allowing a nasty entity like Burma to become a member because "constructive engagement" might result in reforming that dictatorship's brutal behavior toward its people has not worked. None of the feckless Asean members plucked up enough courage this time to tell the generals just how uncivilized they are by killing their protesting monks and students. Nor did they forcefully remind them that Aung San Suu Kyi was duly elected as Burma's leader in 1990 and that her continued detention simply points to the regime's illegality.

The recent Singapore summit merely showed the world how truly useless Asean is as they continue to hold their yearly parties, while telling the United Nations and the West to chill out because it's still not time for some of its members to have total freedom. They apparently don't mind looking like a bunch of ninnies in a dynamic region that could be a respected grouping in the world community.

—ISABEL ESCODA,
Hong Kong,
isabelescoda@yahoo.com

Heroes in the House

THE BOMBING AT THE BATASANG PAMbansa building produced more heroes than heels among Filipinos. It also showed that the House of Representatives as an institution is indeed full of honorable men and women: Dr. Janet Garin, Sonny Angara, Joel Villanueva, Darlene Antonino-Custodio and many more.

These distinguished lawmakers have proven themselves not only in the four corners of their august chamber but also in a time of need, during the critical hours immediately after the bombing. They are not only statesmen and stateswomen but also modern-day champions. So were the other men and women who in one way or another gave their all to save human lives and helped keep the situation in control.

Just like the Glorietta explosion, the bombing at the House proved that as a people, we are capable of setting aside whatever political or other biases we have and of rekindling the old *bayanihan* spirit.

As the saying goes, *kayang-kaya kung sama-sama*. And this was confirmed in those times of crisis.

Let's hope that the spirit of community and cooperation among us Filipinos would come alive not only during tragedies but also in normal day to day events, for the best interest and welfare of the nation. Maybe, it's high time for us to really put politics and even ideological interests aside and work side by side, hand in hand for national progress and development.

We have but one country. We are but one people. Together, we can only go forward, toward advancement and growth.

—LEONARDO KIRK I. GALANZA,
lkirkgalanza@yahoo.com

Grateful to Angara for law on seniors

THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO HONESTO GENERal's column on "Angara's concern for the elderly." (INQUIRER, 10/24/07)

I am a senior citizen and I have nothing but gratitude for Sen. Edgardo Angara after he authored the Senior Citizens Law.

The Angara Law saves us from having to haggle every time we buy our groceries and medicines, or every time we ride a public transport. (And please note that haggling is not a practice in our malls and shopping centers.)

Prior to this law, people thought that a retired senior citizen may go around town spending their pensions or just stay home and wait for the remittances of their OFW children. Senior citizens were classified as *pensionado* and, sadly for some, a *pabigat* (burden) to their children.

But such is not the case anymore with the Angara Law. The law did not just give us a 20 percent discount. It has elevated our stature in society. It reminds people of our important contributions to society, of the services we rendered during our younger days and the reason we deserve "reward for a job well done," to borrow the words of General.

If anything, the Senior Citizens Law has given us back our well-earned self-respect.

—RAFAEL G. LORENZO,
314 Nanirahan St.,
Mabini-J. Rizal, Mandaluyong City

Alarming demand is call for anarchy

"WITH MALICE TOWARDS NONE, WITH charity for all, with firmness on the right..." (Thomas Paine's "Common Sense")

It is the right and duty of every Filipino who values democratic ideals to be heard and be counted in light of the raging controversy besetting our country today.

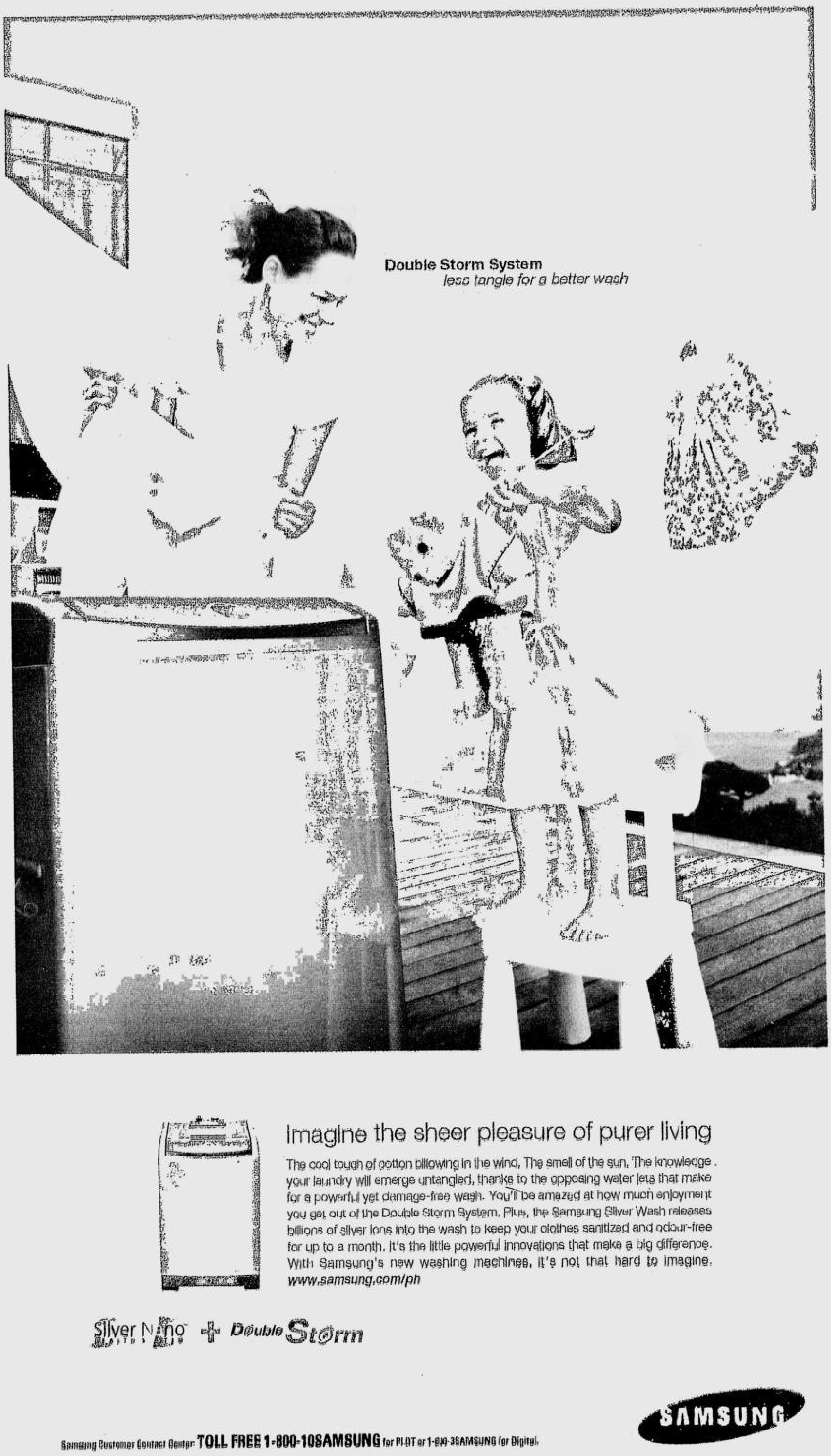
Very alarming indeed was the demand of certain groups of Filipinos calling for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and proposing a "caretaker" government.

I am neither an apologist nor a factotum of the President. I am but an ordinary citizen whose interest is the welfare of the country and its people. I found the demand for President Arroyo's resignation myopic, lacking in wisdom and detrimental to the best interest of the country.

The demand for the resignation of President Arroyo at this time is a call for uncertainty, ambiguity, anarchy and mob rule; a call for the discontinuation of the good things achieved in the fields of economy and international diplomacy.

Should the Filipinos be drawn again to another Edsa Revolution? What if the change that the groups envision fails to materialize? What would be the next option?

—FLORENCIO A. DE LOYOLA,
board member, 2nd district,
Sangguniang Panlalawigan
ng Batangas, Provincial Capitol,
Batangas City



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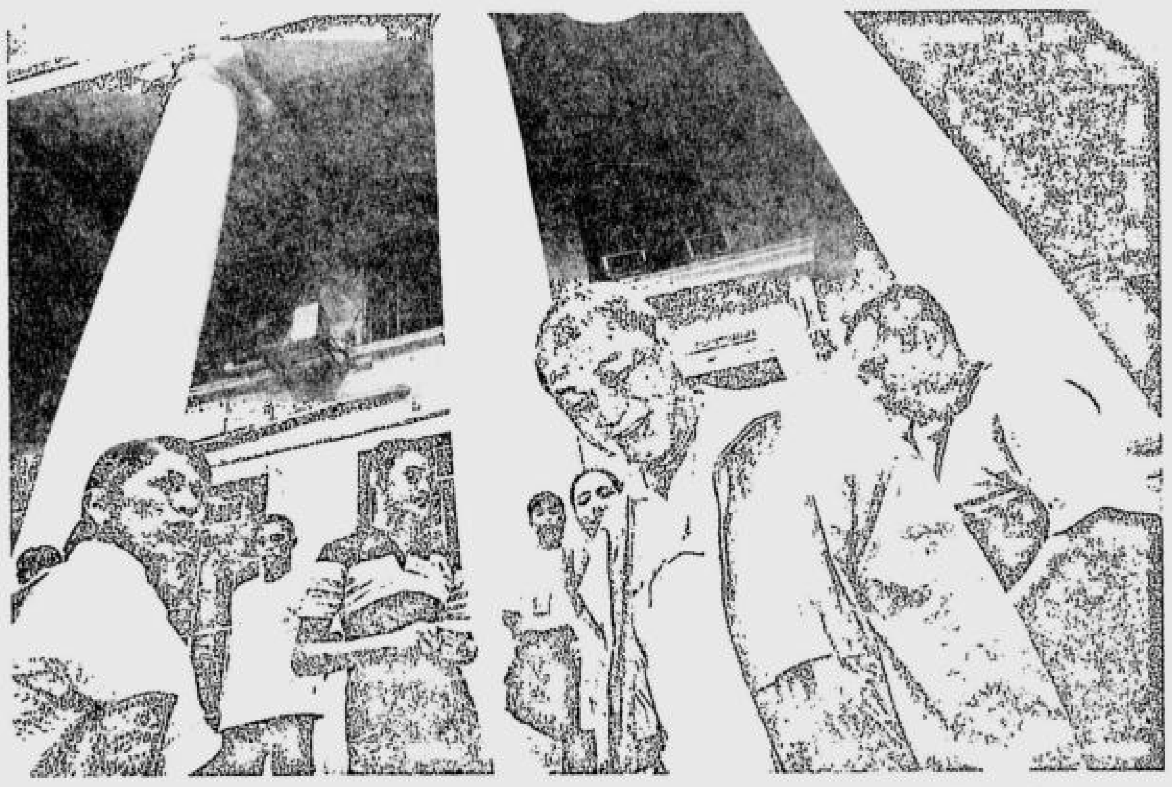
Panlilio brings fight to keep control of quarrying to DOJ

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio on Thursday asked the Department of Justice to declare a new quarry ordinance in the province as "unconstitutional and illegal."



THE FIGHT to keep control of millions of pesos in income from quarrying in the hands of the provincial government brings Fr. Eddie Panlilio, Pampanga governor, to the Department of Justice. REM ZAMORA

The Catholic priest-governor made the move to secure the multimillion-peso income of the provincial government from taxes on Mt. Pinatubo's sand and to uphold national laws that prescribe a graft-prone collection system.

Trip to DOJ

He filed the 34-page appeal before the DOJ in Manila at 11 a.m., accompanied by his lawyers Charlie Yalung, Wilfredo Untalan and Christopher Ryan Tan.

He personally submitted a copy of the appeal as well as its annexes to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez. The annexes include comparative reports on quarry collections by the Lapid administration, Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC) and the Panlilio administration.

Ordinance No. 176, which the Pampanga Mayors League proposed, came as Panlilio introduced reforms in the regulatory system.

While retaining the P150-administrative fee and P150-tax per truckload of sand, the capitol has collected P97.410 million from June 29 to Nov. 21.

Good collection

This amount exceeded the collections in three and half years under Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid and his son Mark in their stints as governors. The amount was P9 million short of the P106 million the NRDC collected in 2001.

Panlilio sought the DOJ's intervention a few weeks after the provincial board overrode his veto of the ordinance on Oct. 15.

But forced by the ordinance to implement it, he issued an executive order creating a body to draft the ordinance's implementing rules.

In the case, the appellees are Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao, Board Members Crisostomo Garbo, Catalina Bagasina, Tarcicio Halili, Ceferino Laus, Arthur Salalila, Edna David, Ricardo Yabut, Johhny Quiambao, Nelson Calara and Nilo Caballa.

"It is the mandate of the appellant, as governor of the province of Pampanga, to exercise such powers and perform such duties and functions as provided for by the Local Government Code of 1991 and all other laws. He has to protect the general welfare of the province and its inhabitants. That is a duty the appellant has solemnly sworn to and committed to uphold," Panlilio said in his appeal.

No hearings

He said Guiao and the provincial board failed to observe the mandatory requirements of public hearings in enacting the ordinance that, he noted, was essentially a tax ordinance because it increased the extraction fee, abolished the administrative fee and prescribed a mechanism for collection.

He said the ordinance was in conflict with the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 (Republic Act No. 7942) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources Order No. 96-04 when it gave private persons in the municipal and provincial quarry association governmental powers.

He said this provision must be voided because it "usurps the powers and functions under the jurisdiction of the [DENR secretary] through the Mines and Geosciences Bureau and the regional director as delegated to the office of the governor and the Provincial Mining Regulatoty Board."

The requirement of the mayors on quarry operators to obtain certificate of accreditation renders the quarry permits issued by the governor for five hectares and below and by the MGB for five hectares and up "inutile and useless," he said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon and Leila Salaverria, in Manila*

> 'The law is clear that only the provincial governor may cancel, revoke... quarry permits...'

'Lando' leaves Visayas with ₱20M in damages

By Joey A. Gabieta and Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—TYPHOON "LANDO" DAmaged some P21 million worth of infrastructure, crops and pieces of property in Central and Eastern Visayas.

The Regional Disaster Coordinating Council in Central Visayas (RDCC 7), in its report released Thursday, said the Department of Public Works and Highways estimated that the region-wide damage to infrastructure cost P17.56 million.

However, the RDCC report did not identify the damaged infrastructure and their locations.

The RDCC said the DPWH sent teams to clear all roads blocked by landslides, including the highway linking Cebu City to Balamban town.

In Cebu City alone, Lando destroyed around P20 million in pieces of property, roads and crops, said Cebu City Councilor Gerardo Carillo, chair of the Cebu City Disaster Coordinating Council.

Carillo said the typhoon destroyed several structures, like billboards and roads as well as plantations of flowers, vegetables and other crops in mountain barangays.

At least 12 houses were destroyed, also due to landslides, he said.

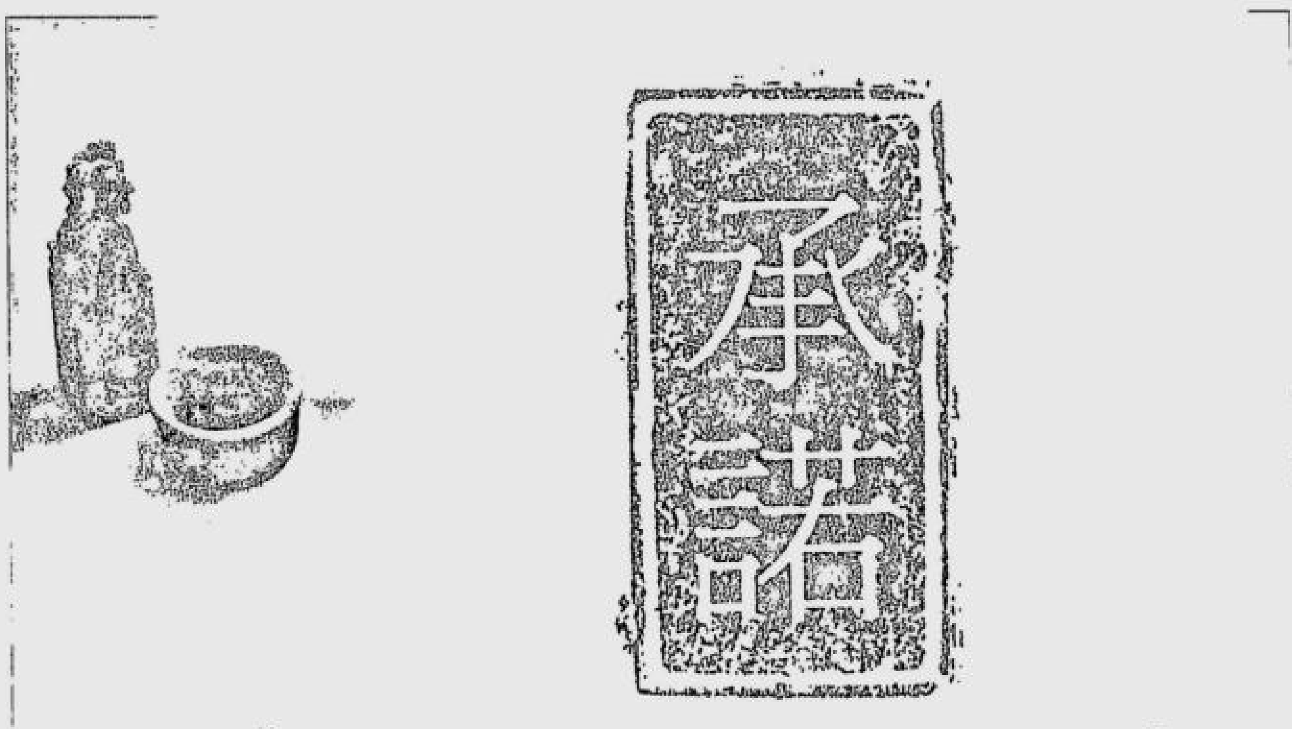
The Cebu City roads that need rehabilitation include those in barangays Sapangdaku, Kalunasan, Buhisan, Babag, Busay and Pamutan.

On Tuesday, the Cebu City council declared a state of calamity and preparedness and allocated P37.5 million for the rehabilitation and purchase of heavy equipment.

Cebu City Councilor Sylvan Jakosalem also plans to come up with the city's own weather tracking system after the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) issued a late advisory last Monday.

City officials lamented that because Pagasa's storm advisory came late, the city was not able to prepare for the storm.

Jakosalem said the city's storm tracking and warning system would be based initially on online Internet data and satellite images. The Cebu City government might buy its own equipment for weather forecasting, he added.



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Thieves stop night flights in GenSan

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—PILOTS ENCOUNTERING trouble in their aircraft during night flights should skip the General Santos International Airport (GSCIA) here and find other airports to make emergency landings on.

The local Air Transportation Office (ATO) announced that there will be no more emergency landings at night for all types of aircraft at the GSCIA as a result of the pilferage of its lights and electric wires.

Nathaniel Nazareno, airport manager, said instead of helping planes in distress, making emergency landings at the GSCIA during night time might just spell disaster.

The reason: The runway would not be visible from above.

Nazareno said the lighting facilities of the runway had been disabled by thieves, who have been preying on the electrical wires and the lighting bulbs.

The first of such thefts, which immediately rendered the lights useless, was on Oct. 31.

Nazareno said earlier this week, police authorities finally caught up with some of the suspected thieves—four minors—who tried to steal the runway's lighting bulbs and wires.

He said during follow-up operations, the police also recovered some of the stolen electrical wires from the suspects' houses.

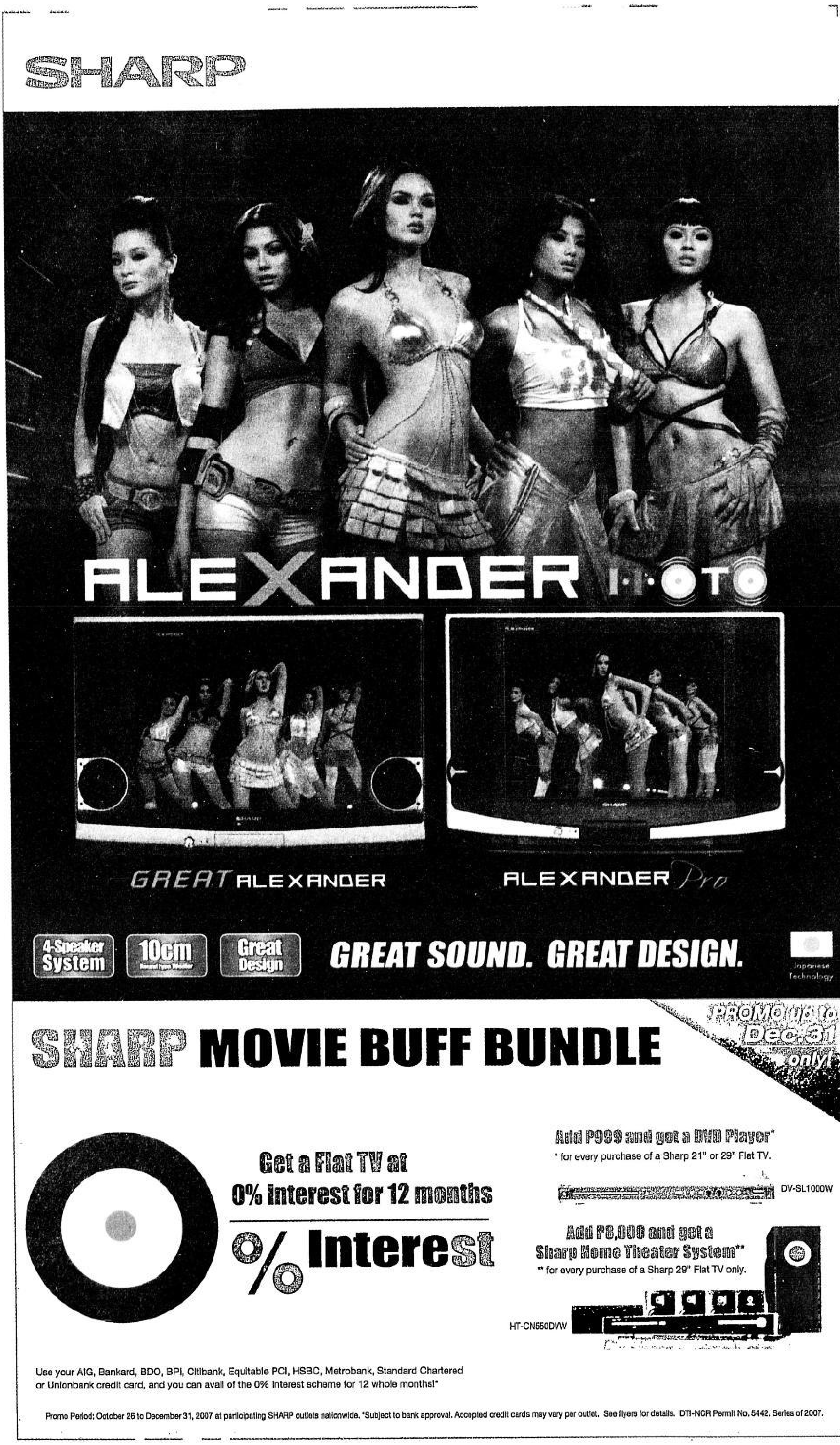
Nazareno said the damage wrought by the pilferage of the airport's lighting system was valued at P1 million.

He said it would take a long time before the system could be fully restored.

"It would take a long time before passenger, private and military aircraft could use the GenSan airport during night time," Nazareno said. *Aquiles Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao*

NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

ON THE MOVE
Residents of several towns in Albay had to move out of their homes in anticipation of Typhoon "Mina." Soldiers were sent to guard some evacuation centers to secure the evacuees.



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Mar Roxas meet with LGUs sets tone for 2010

DAVAO CITY—THE SMELL OF PRESIDENTIAL elections wafted through a gathering of Visayas and Mindanao leaders here on Sunday with one of the personalities whose name was constantly being mentioned as a 2010 contender, Sen. Manuel Araneta Roxas III.

During the meeting, Roxas said the country was in a bad shape, like a patient in an intensive care unit (ICU).

"If the patient is in ICU, it was important that the doctors and nurses be specific in what they would do," the senator said.

"You just can't tell the patient 'I wish you would be well.' Talk is useless."

A statement from Roxas' office said there was nothing unusual about the conference because the senator simply wanted to help map out the economic development agenda of the two regions.

The two-hour meeting, held at the Marco Polo Hotel here, was attended by Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña, Mandaue City Mayor Jonas Cortez and Cagayan de Oro Vice Mayor Vicente Emano.

Also present was former Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Paul Dominguez.

During the meeting, Roxas pointed how the Visayas and Mindanao regions have been left out in the national development plan.

He said he was trying to change this through a series of consultations—with the help of local executives—for the formulation of a "focused and sustainable plan and checklist for the people."

"As we look to 2010 and beyond, as we look at our country, we want to actually have an agenda, a checklist, that we will say this is what development ought to be, this is what actions, projects and programs ought to be, and this is what we will be doing for our people in the coming years," Roxas said.

As the next elections draw near, local leaders agreed it was important to have a development agenda that they said will really answer the needs of the people of Visayas and Mindanao. *Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao*

Bacoor turns over ₱85-M tax to gov't

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

TRECE MARTIRES CITY—THE PROVINCIAL government has finally received after two years its share of nearly P85 million in taxes generated by the municipality of Bacoor.

Newly elected Bacoor Mayor Edwin "Strike" Revilla handed over the amount, representing real property tax and special education fund tax, to Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi in simple rites held at the capitol grounds here last week.

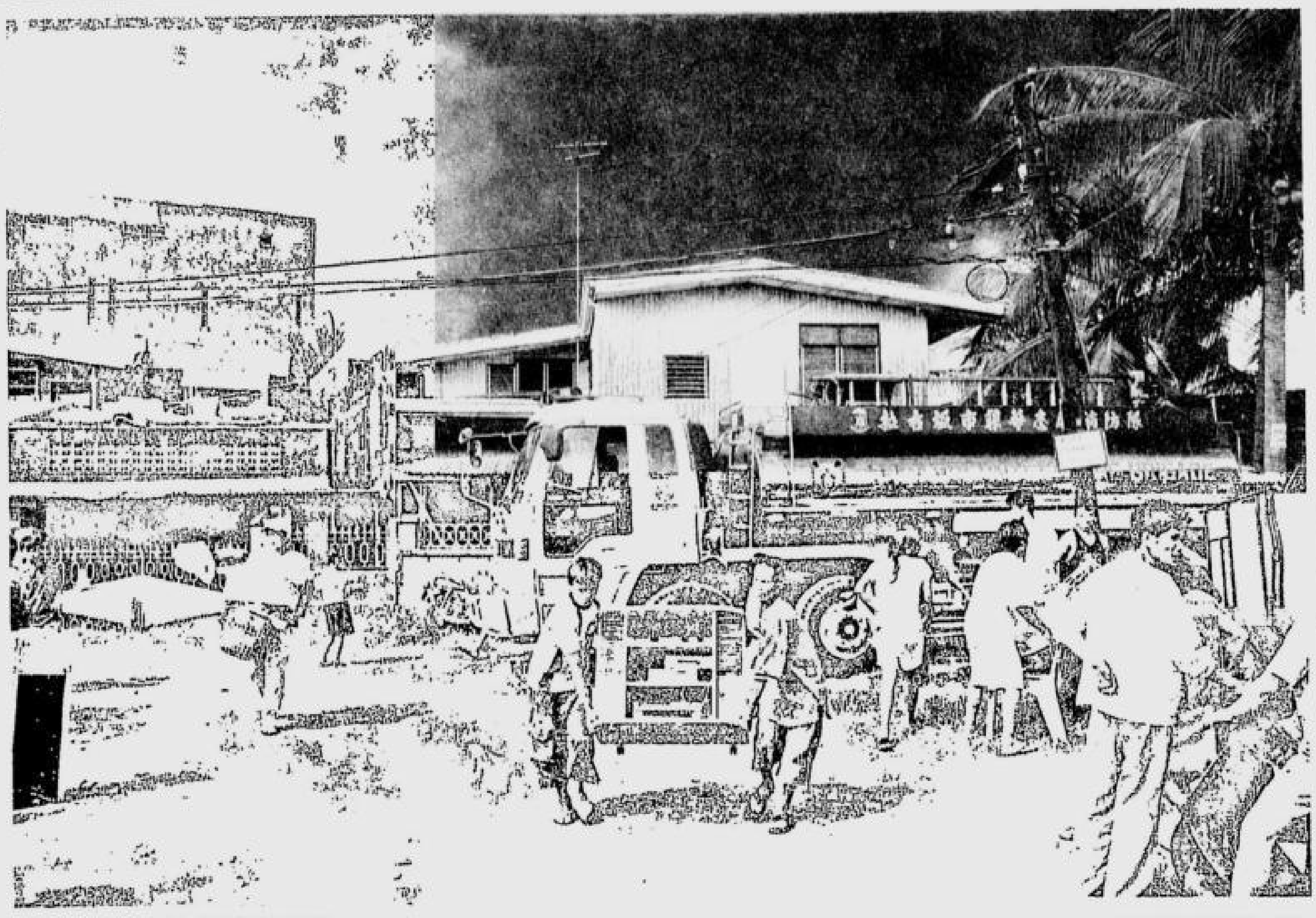
The Bacoor treasurer's office had earlier refused to remit the money as an offshoot of political animosity between then Mayor Jessie Castillo and Maliksi.

Castillo, who lost in his congressional bid in the first district of the province in the May polls, is a known supporter of former Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla, Maliksi's staunchest political opponent.

Instead of remitting the money, Castillo deposited it in a private bank in Bacoor. This prompted Leilani Grimares, the provincial legal officer, to file criminal and administrative charges against Castillo.

On Sept, 14, 2006, Imus Regional Trial Court Judge Aurelio Icasiano directed Castillo to entrust the funds to the provincial government, but the former mayor refused.

"The release of this fund was long overdue," Alda Lou Cabrera, provincial information officer, told the INQUIRER on Monday.



ENTERTAINMENT VALUE

RAY ZAMBRANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

One of the first things residents of a village in Dagupan saved from a fire that hit the city recently was this cabinet with CDs and DVD player.

North Cotabato to sue PNOC for Mt. Apo intrusion

KIDAPAWAN CITY—THE provincial government of North Cotabato is suing the Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) for the alleged illegal expansion of its geothermal drilling operations inside Mt. Apo, the country's highest peak.

North Cotabato Gov. Jesus Sacdalan told the INQUIRER by phone on Wednesday that PNOC failed to consult and secure clearance from the provincial government before the drillings started.

PNOC operates the Mindanao Geothermal Production Field (MGPF) facilities composed of two power plants in Mt. Apo—the 52-megawatt Mindanao 1 Geothermal Power Plant and the 54-MW Mindanao 2 Geothermal Power Plant (M2GP).

"We will file a case on this matter. We are working on it. They did not consult local government officials. This is also a violation of our environmental code," he said.

Mt. Apo is a protected area under national and local laws.

Sacdalan said the provincial government will also use the memorandum of agreement signed in 1992 by local government officials and PNOC.

"Under the MOA, it was specified that they will inform us of any changes in the operations," Sacdalan said.

Sacdalan said officials already called the PNOC's attention on the drillings being conducted outside the specified geothermal sites in Mt. Apo but the government-run energy company ignored it.

North Cotabato Vice Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said the provincial board has also passed a resolution, seeking a court order for the immediate suspension of the drilling operations. *Jeffrey Maitem and Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

SBMA chief defends exec on smuggling rap

By Ansbert Joaquin
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Feliciano Salonga defended his beleaguered partner in managing the Subic Bay Freeport, SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza, saying there should be a division of labor between the SBMA and the Bureau of Customs, particularly in the campaign against smuggling.

"And it should be defined clearly," Salonga said in reaction to a report naming three SBMA officials to an alleged conspiracy in smuggling 16 luxury vehicles out of the freeport.

The report said the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission has recommended the filing of charges against Arreza, Jose Calimlim, SBMA deputy administrator for operations, and Perfecto Pascual, seaport manager.

Calimlim also heads a group which has now been widely known as the Subic Task Force on Anti-Smuggling. The group is complimented by a 176-member composite team from the Philippine National Police, the SBMA and the Department of Justice, and works on an annual budget of P36 million.

Also facing charges for falsification of public documents and violation of antigraft practices law are five BOC officials, including Subic Customs Collector Marietta Zamoranos.

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GMA pardons soldier jailed for Ninoy murder

From page A1

know what they are called. I have forgotten how they tasted like," Martinez said in a phone interview.

Martinez was one of 16 soldiers sentenced to life imprisonment in 1990 for double murder—that of Aquino, who was shot in 1983 on his return from three years of self-exile in the United States, and of Rolando Galman, supposedly a communist hit man who allegedly killed the opposition leader and who was gunned down moments later by Aquino's military escorts. Two of the accused soldiers, including a general, have since died of natural causes.

Aquino's assassination sparked massive protests that culminated in the ouster of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and the election of his widow Corazon Aquino as President.

Good conduct

Ms Arroyo granted Martinez a conditional pardon on Nov. 7 because of his advanced age and good behavior, Malacañang said, but the Bureau of Corrections received a copy of the order only on Wednesday.

"He showed particularly good conduct inside prison, and he is also 70 years old already. He is more than eligible for pardon," said BuCor Director Ricardo Dapat.

Public Attorney's Office chief Persida Acosta said the pardon was granted to Martinez on condition that he continue to show good behavior and that he "shall not violate any penal law."

Others 'sickly and dying'

Acosta said the release of Martinez's 13 fellow convicts, described as "sickly and dying," was being facilitated.

"Martinez was set free first because he was the oldest among them," Acosta said.

He is also suffering from hypertension, diabetes and stomach ulcers. Acosta said that Martinez's blood pressure shot up to 195/110 after lunch yesterday.

But as he savored the company of his six children and 16 grandchildren, Martinez could only thank God for granting him his freedom in his twilight years. He became a born-again Christian and a pastor in 2003.

"I'm happy because I will finally be reunited with my family, but I'm also sad because I will be leaving my companions."

In a news conference, Martinez apologized to Aquino's family and to the Filipino people.

'Please forgive me'

"If you're listening now, Madame Cory Aquino, please forgive me for my sins," Martinez said. "I assure them that they [Ninoy and Galman] remain in my prayers," he said.

Aquino's family, however, slammed the President's decision to pardon Martinez.

His eldest son and namesake, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, said Ms Arroyo's pardon may have been Malacañang's way of getting back at the Aquino family for aligning itself with the political opposition.

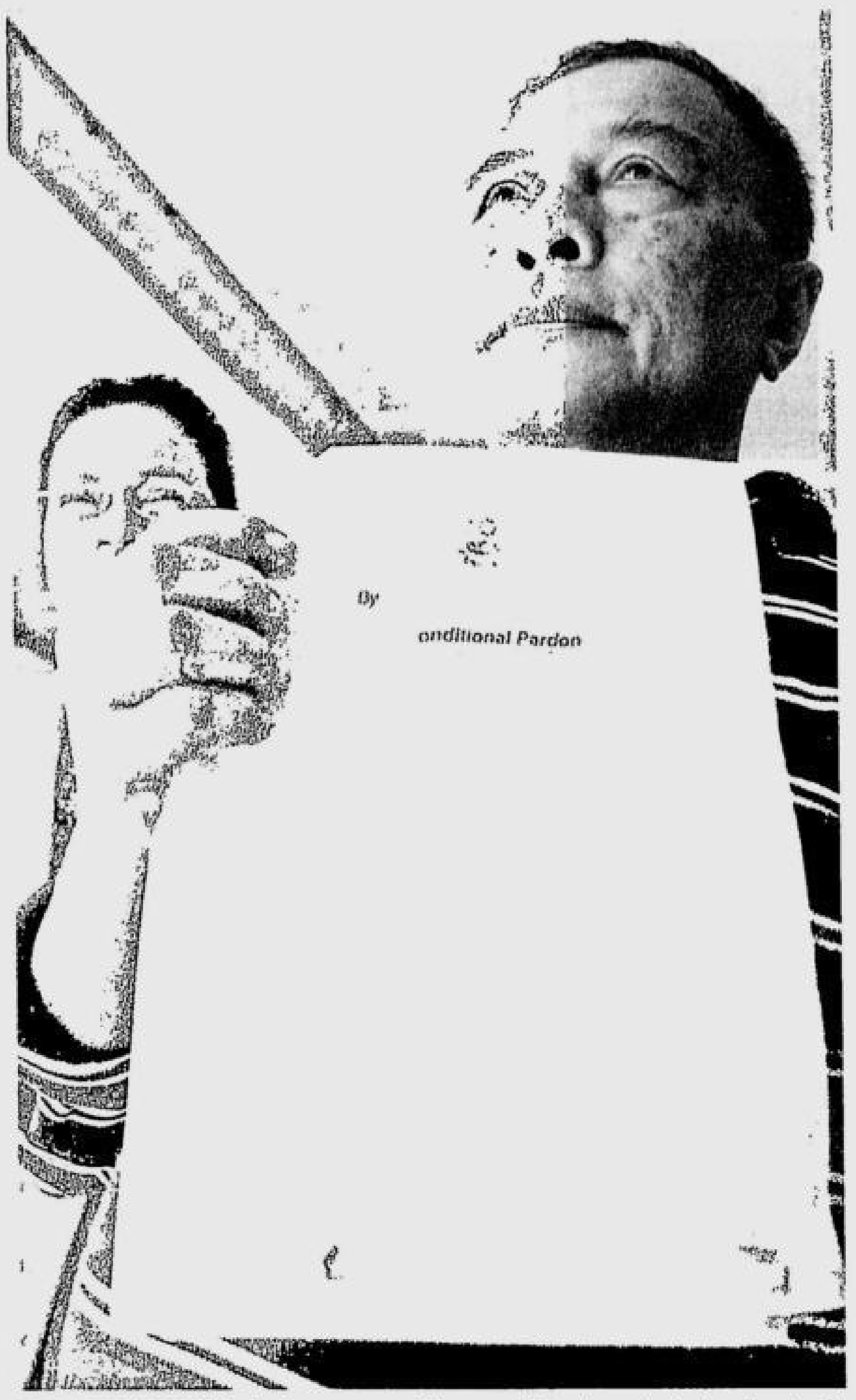
"I am not against the granting of a pardon to persons who deserve it. However, people who have refused to accept their guilt and have shown no contrition for the crime they committed do not deserve pardon," Aquino said.

He also found the timing of the pardon ironic since the family would be observing his father's birthday on Nov. 27.

No way to honor a hero

"This decision by the government is not the way to honor and pay tribute to the sacrifices of a hero who gave his life for his country and fought for the freedoms that we now enjoy," he said.

"I sincerely hope that the pardon that was granted to one of my father's assassins was not a vengeful act against our family as we continue to stand firmly in holding this government accountable for its actions." *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Allison W. Lopez*



IT'S OFFICIAL: With the document on his unconditional pardon in hand, retired M/Sgt. Pablo Martinez at the Bayview Hotel is once again a free man after 24 years in prison for the Aquino-Galman murders. At left is Chief Public Attorney Persida V. Rueda-Acosta. At the hotel, he feasts on native food. LYN RILLON

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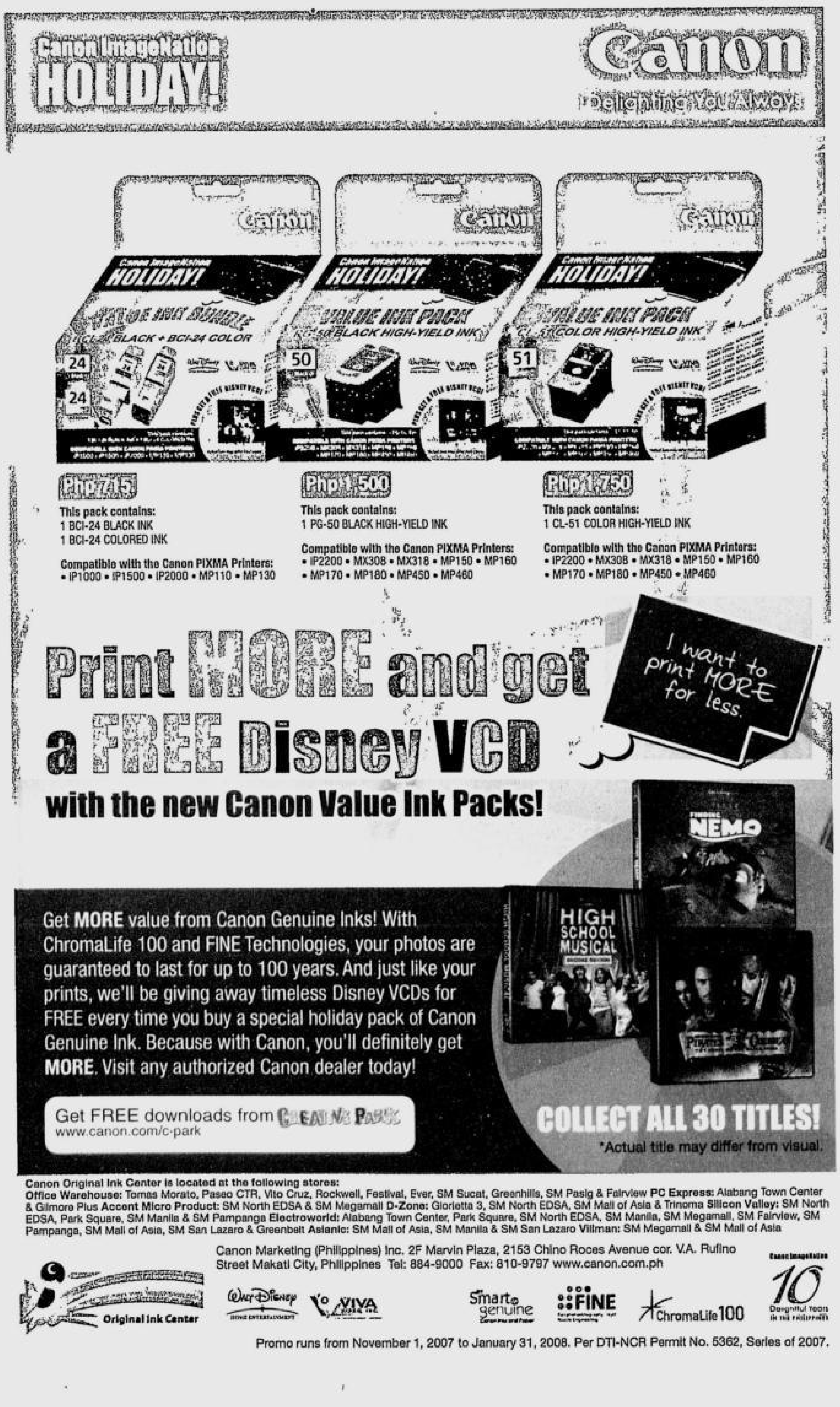

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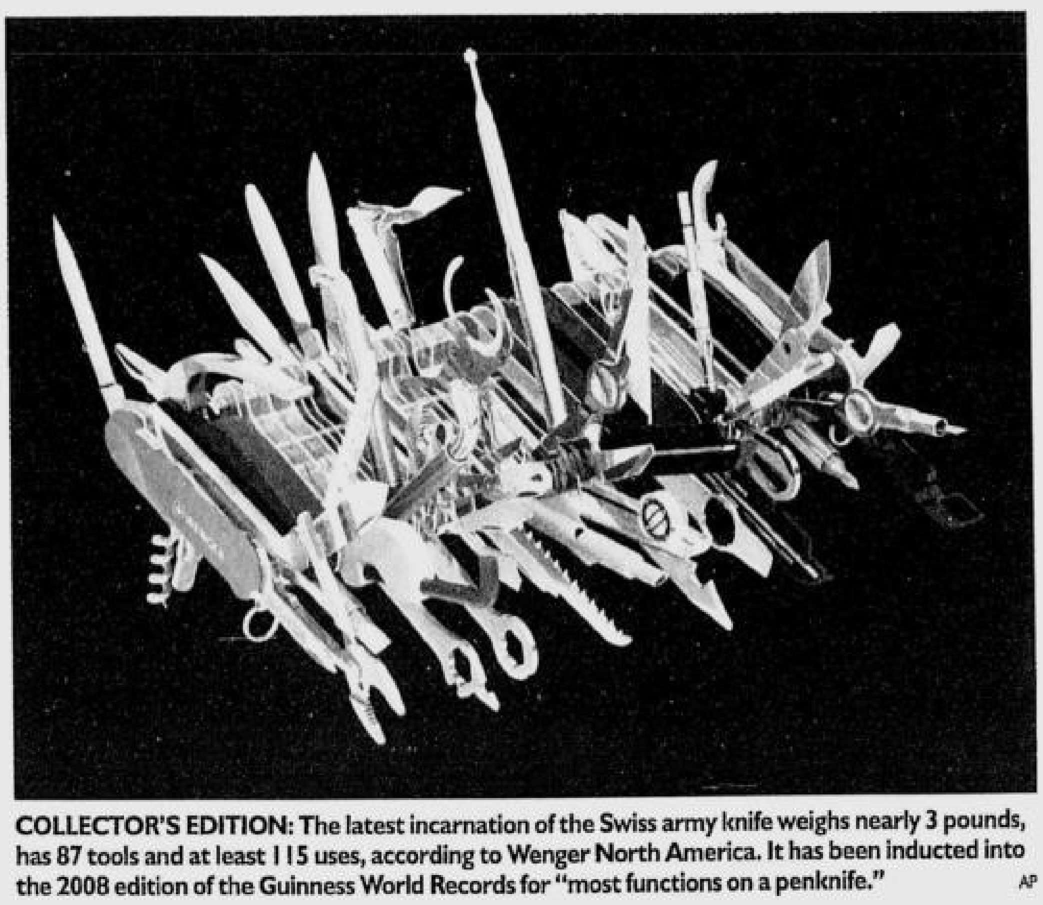

COLLECTOR'S EDITION: The latest incarnation of the Swiss army knife weighs nearly 3 pounds, has 87 tools and at least 115 uses, according to Wenger North America. It has been inducted into the 2008 edition of the Guinness World Records for "most functions on a penknife." AP

Mother of all Swiss knives ...

From page A1

club or adjust a bicycle spoke, this is the knife for you.

A Swiss Army knife that weighs nearly 1.4 kilograms (3 pounds) has been inducted into the 2008 edition of Guinness World Records for "most functions on a penknife."

The knife's previous version had 85 tools. The latest version, however, has 87 tools and at least 115 uses, according to Wenger North America, the Orangeburg-based American distributor that announced the induction on Tuesday.

Toothpick, too

"Basically, they took every implement they ever put in a Swiss Army knife and combined them in this one piece," said company spokesperson Jennifer Voss.

The bristling behemoth has a dozen or so blades, saws and cutters, and a dozen or so screwdrivers. Then there are the toothpicks, key rings, magnifiers, fish scalers and nail files sometimes found on combination penknives.

It also includes a laser pointer and a flashlight.

The unique Swiss Army knife also has a wrench just for the spikes on a golf shoe; a tool just for opening the case of a watch; and a screwdriver specifically for gunsights.

For the extremely avid gardener, there are four different blades for grafting one plant onto another—the grafting blade with a hooked end, the grafting blade with a narrow belly, the standard grafting blade without a belly and the narrow grafting blade without a belly.

Too big for pockets

The "belly" is a bulge along the blade, Wenger spokesperson Dennis Piretra explained.

The knife, manufactured by Wenger in Delemont, Switzerland, looks like a bunch of different pocketknives placed side-by-side and soldered together.

At 22 centimeters by 8 centimeters (8.75 inches by 3.25 inches), the knife is big for most pockets.

And at $1,200 (euro810), it's pretty much a collector's item. About 450 were sold in its first year, Voss said. AP

Asean-EU free trade talks stumble over Burma

From page A1

free-trade agreement between the European Union and Asean, its fifth-largest trading partner, stumbled over the issue of reform in military-ruled Burma.

A joint Asean-EU declaration called for the release of political detainees and the "early lifting" of restrictions on political parties in Burma. It also welcomed the Burmese junta's decision "to step up its engagement with the UN and to enter into a dialogue" with detained opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

The two sides hoped the recent intervention by UN envoy Ibrahim Gambari in the Burma crisis would "bring about an inclusive and comprehensive process of genuine national reconciliation and peaceful transition to democracy."

The two blocs, however, clashed over sanctions that the European Union and the United States had imposed on Burma.

Tighten existing sanctions

During their closed-door summit of Asean and EU leaders, Burmese Foreign Minister Nyan Win came under fire from EU delegates, who urged the junta to release Suu Kyi, according to a diplomat who declined to be named because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The diplomat told The Associated Press that Nyan Win said the military government was cooperating with the United Nations, but stressed it was a domestic affair and that others should not intervene.

"I assure you that we will work toward the path of democracy," the diplomat quoted Nyan Win as saying.

Other Asian diplomats said EU officials reiterated their call to tighten existing sanctions against the isolated Southeast Asian nation.

During discussions between trade ministers of the two blocs, both sides confirmed Burma would not be excluded from negotiations for a free trade agreement between the 10-member Asean and 27 EU countries.

Singapore stand

"All 10 will negotiate; not one will be left out of the table," Philippine Assistant Trade Secretary Ramon Kabigting said.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong insisted that the region must move beyond the debate over Burma.

"While Myanmar is a significant issue, relations between Asean and EU should not be held hostage by it," he said.

Questions had been raised about whether the European Union would try to block Burma from inclusion in the free trade talks after its junta crushed prodemocracy protests in September, killing at least 15 people.

EU foreign ministers on Monday approved several additional sanctions against Burma, including a ban on the imports of timber, gemstones and precious metal. The new sanctions come on top of an existing travel ban on Burmese officials, an arms embargo and a freeze on Burma's assets in Europe.

Bottom line

Lee told a news conference that Singapore—which has invested heavily in Burma and serves as banker to its military rulers—opposed sanctions against its neighbor, saying they only served to hurt the impoverished Burmese people.

Prime Minister Jose Socrates of Portugal, which chairs the European Union this year, said the bottom line was that that all sides wanted the same thing: "We have a common approach . . . that Myanmar must become democratic and respect human rights."

But Socrates added: "We see some progress, but it is not sufficient."

Preliminary negotiations with the European Union over a free-trade pact started in May and are set to conclude in late 2009. The two sides hope the situation in Burma would have improved by then, according to a Southeast Asian official who declined to be named due to diplomatic protocol.

"It is better to have Myanmar on board now because things may change in two years," he said.

Creative work

The five-year action plan between Asean and the European Union covers political and security cooperation, trade and investment, sustainable development of mineral resources, as well as the advancement of science and technology. The pact resolves to address climate change by introducing measures to fight air pollution.

Lee said it would take "a lot of creative work" to conclude the Asean-EU free trade agreement by 2009.

Asean already has free trade agreements with China and is concluding pacts with Japan and India. It also intends to start negotiations with the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

Trade between Asean and the European Union has grown by an average 4 percent annually for the past five years. The European Union is Asean's second largest trading partner after the United States, accounting for nearly 12 percent of Asean's total external trade. EU countries purchase 13 percent of Asean's exports and provide 10 percent of its imports, including machinery, transport equipment, chemicals and manufactured goods.

In 2006, trade between the two regions amounted to US$186 billion, with Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand accounting for the bulk of the exchange of goods and services.

US Trade Representative Susan Schwab, however, also said this week that an Asean-US trade deal was also unlikely because of the political situation. The United States also expanded its sanctions against Burma's rulers in October.

While EU officials and diplomats criticized Asean's handling of Burma's junta, they welcomed the new Asean Charter that enshrines principles of democracy and human rights, economic integration and environmental protection.

The charter, which Asean leaders signed on Tuesday, needs to be ratified by the 10 Asean member-states within 12 months for it to take effect.

GMA: Release Suu Kyi

President Macapagal-Arroyo, however, said the Philippine Congress might not ratify the Asean Charter unless Burma released Suu Kyi.

Ms Arroyo will continue to work for the release of Suu Kyi, according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"The President has been very consistent about the Philippine position on Myanmar and this is a position which the President in representation of the Filipino people will try to pursue in other fora," Bunye yesterday told reporters.

"We're not very concerned with image. We're concerned with what is good for the people of Myanmar. We know that many of them have suffered and we're concerned," he added.

Reports from Norman Bordadora, AP and Reuters

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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
P & SP WORLDTRADE CORP. 44A Zeta Bldg., 191 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Yonghoon Jin Korean	Treasurer
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Joanne Baolin Lin Singaporean	Customer Service
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Choon Siang Chan Malaysian	Marketing Officer
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Suwito Indonesian	Marketing Officer
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Johny Indonesian	Marketing Officer
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Chee Wei Lim Malaysian	System Analyst
CITYBEST SEAFOOD GARDEN RESTAURANT INC. 148 T. Morato Ave. cor. Scout Gandia, Quezon City	Xiaofu Dai Chinese	Cook
CITYBEST SEAFOOD GARDEN RESTAURANT INC. 148 T. Morato Ave. cor. Scout Gandia, Quezon City	Jinsong Wu Chinese	Cook
CITYBEST SEAFOOD GARDEN RESTAURANT INC. 148 T. Morato Ave. cor. Scout Gandia, Quezon City	Yanghai Xu Chinese	Cook
CITYBEST SEAFOOD GARDEN RESTAURANT INC. 148 T. Morato Ave. cor. Scout Gandia, Quezon City.	Feiming Wang Chinese	Cook
CITYBEST SEAFOOD GARDEN RESTAURANT INC. 148 T. Morato Ave. cor. Scout Gandia, Quezon City	Wenyuan Xu Chinese	Cook
P & SP WORLDTRADE CORP. 44A Zeta Bldg., 191 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Pyong Hun Yi Korean	Board Member
SPORTS BOOKIE ONLINE, INC. 24/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Yin Hong Yap Malaysian	Chinese/Mandarin-language Customer Support Staff
SPORTS BOOKIE ONLINE, INC. 24/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Ru Ping Tee Malaysian	Chinese/Mandarin-language Customer Support Staff
SPORTS BOOKIE ONLINE, INC. 24/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Iang Zhuang Wooi Malaysian	Chinese/Mandarin-language Customer Support Staff
SPORTS BOOKIE ONLINE, INC. 24/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Boon Hooi Tan Malaysian	Chinese/Mandarin-language Customer Support Staff
SPORTS BOOKIE ONLINE, INC. 24/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Yeong Soon Chai Malaysian	Chinese/Mandarin-language Customer Support Staff
SPORTS BOOKIE ONLINE, INC. 24/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Chin Ming Soh Malaysian	Chinese/Mandarin-language Customer Support Staff
SPORTS BOOKIE ONLINE, INC. 24/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Mee Fong Cho Malaysian	Chinese/Mandarin-language Customer Support Staff
SPORTS BOOKIE ONLINE, INC. 24/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Way Sun Lim Malaysian	Chinese/Mandarin-language Customer Support Staff
SPORTS BOOKIE ONLINE, INC. 24/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Soon Yoong Yap Malaysian	Chinese/Mandarin-language Customer Support Staff
SPORTS BOOKIE ONLINE, INC. 24/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	See Yim Tey Malaysian	Chinese/Mandarin-language Customer Support Staff
TRADITIONAL MARINES CORP. 1027 Asuncion St., Binondo, Manila	Yabin Qiu Chinese	Supervisor
TRADITIONAL MARINES CORP. 1027 Asuncion St., Binondo, Manila	Mingxia Chen Chinese	Marketing Supervisor
TRADITIONAL MARINES CORP. 1027 Asuncion St., Binondo, Manila	Tou Chen Chinese	Manager
TRADITIONAL MARINES CORP. 1027 Asuncion St., Binondo, Manila	Liya Wang Chinese	Asst. Manager
JECTONIA TRADING CORP. 1024 Antonio Rivera St., Tondo, Manila	Xiuliang Dong Chinese	Consultant
YI LIN TRADERS CORPORATION Rm. 420, 413 Escolta St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Haiqun Li Chinese	Administrative Manager
YI LIN TRADERS CORPORATION Rm. 420, 413 Escolta St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Yijie Chen Chinese	Marketing Manager
YI LIN TRADERS CORPORATION Rm. 420, 413 Escolta St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Jiaqing Liu Chinese	Sales Manager
YI LIN TRADERS CORPORATION Rm. 420, 413 Escolta St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Haiyan Li Chinese	Finance Manager
SAFETY SERVICE KINDNESS PHILS. INC. Unit G-189 Katipunan Avenue, Project 4, Blueridge, Quezon City	Takashi Saito Japanese	President and Chairman of the Board
24HRS CAR CENTER CORP. 8418 Sucat Rd., Goodwill II, Brgy. BF, Parañaque City	Junlian Hong Chinese	Consultant
24HRS CAR CENTER CORP. 8418 Sucat Rd., Goodwill II, Brgy. BF, Parañaque City	Zongren Lin Chinese	Marketing Manager
JEONGSU RESORT CORPORATION 23 St., Joseph Paradise Village, Project 8, Quezon City	Moonsu Park Korean	Sales Consultant
JEONGSU RESORT CORPORATION 23 St., Joseph Paradise Village, Project 8, Quezon City	Eungseok Park Korean	Sales Consultant
KAI QI DEVELOPMENT CORP. Unit 706, 7/F Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Pasig City	Kai Qu Chinese	Marketing Manager
KAI QI DEVELOPMENT CORP. Unit 706, 7/F Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Pasig City	Xueyong Li Chinese	Supervisor
PHILCO JEN TRADING CORPORATION 739 CPM Comp. Dos De Julio St., Sumilang, Pasig City	Kyeongha Jo Korean	President/ Managing Director
FOREVER FIBER CORP. 6081 Pabaya St., Mapulang Lupa, Valenzuela City	Shaoxing Cai Chinese	General Manager
SKYTECH INTERNATIONAL DENTAL LABORATORIES, INC. 3/F Chunics Bldg., 3368 R. Magsaysay Blvd., Sta. Mesa, Manila	Steven Kenneth Helbley American	Production Training Manager
MANILA RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 3450 Florida St., Palanan, Makati City	Heung Joong Kang Korean	Director for Korean Affairs
SAN MIGUEL MILLS, INC. 25/F JMT Bldg., ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Masaaki Nashida Japanese	Contract Employee
PATIALA TRADING CORP. 14B Encarnacion St., Dalandanan, Valenzuela City	Gurmit Singh Indian	Assistant Sales Manager
MRI WORLDWIDE HONGKONG REGIONAL HEADQUARTER 7/F Filipino Bldg., Dela Rosa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Nikhilesh Chand Mathur Indian	General Manager
LAND REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED IMC Bldg., LRA Cmpd., East Ave., cor. NIA Rd., Quezon City	Deepak Kumar Indian	Managing Director
TABOSEM PHIL. CORP. U-101B Centerpoint Bldg., J. Vargas Ave. cor. Garnet Rd., Ortigas, Pasig City	Gyusuk Lee (wife of KIM) Korean	Operation Manager
QINGLI PLASTIC MANUFACTURING CORPORATION 1154 C.M. Recto, Binondo, Manila	Wenbo Xu Chinese	Assistant Manager
PILIPINAS INTERNATIONAL MARKETING SERVICES, INC. 28/F The Orient Square Bldg., F. Ortigas Jr. Rd., Ortigas, Pasig City	Nobuhiro Asada Japanese	Japanese Confirmation Associate
EB2 INTERNATIONAL INC. 1605 OMM Citra Bldg., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City	Kuok Fung Cheong Malaysian	Project Manager
SUNCHAMP REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT CORP. 35 Gasan St., SFDM, Quezon City	Zhenli Ke Chinese	International Marketing Consultant
YUNG SUNG INDUSTRIAL PHILS., INC. E-1901 B PSE Centre, Exchange Road, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City	Duck Woo Hahn American	Chairman of the Board

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI–November 23, 2007)

PNP final report: Glorietta 2 blast not bomb attack

From page A1

have ruled out methane or diesel as the cause of the explosion. And we see no other possible source of gas that could create this kind of explosion and this much damage," ALI spokesperson Alfonso Reyes said.

Reyes also said ALI had not seen a copy of the task force's final report but was made aware that this would be issued in two weeks.

"We hope that the site will be turned over to us at the soonest possible time so that we can carry on with our own evaluation in the search for the truth," he said.

ALI has yet to determine the cause of the explosion based on its own evaluation of the damaged site.

No bomb parts

Ticman said that:

- No bomb parts had been found. ("No IED [improvised explosive device] component or part was recovered in the basement [of the mall] or anywhere in the affected area").
- Neither was there a bomb crater. Initially, investigators found suspected craters, but found no trace of a "thermal effect", and explosives residue that would indicate the use of a bomb.
- Nor were there explosive materials in the liquid samples and in the diesel fuel from the tank (both in the mall basement), as well as on the skin and clothing of the victims who survived the blast.

"All victims died from traumatic injuries and not from a bomb explosion. Those who died, as well as those who were injured, tested negative for explosive residue," Ticman said.

According to Ticman, the initial finding of RDX—a component of the C4 military explosive—recovered on the ground floor "did not cause or initiate the explosive."

"It was not corroborated by other evidence and it was not significant in the explosion," Ticman said.

Investigators also found no evidence of a tearing effect usually found in a bomb site, he said.

There was also no soot or blackening on the ceiling of the basement or on the supposed bomb craters. Such an absence "indicates that the explosion was not caused by a bomb," he said.

Final activities

Ticman said pumps, switches, circuit breakers and other electrical equipment in the basement were being examined by the NBI to find out the ignition.

He said investigators were processing the area outside the blast site—meaning the ground floor up to the third floor of the mall—to document the damage caused by the explosion.

Ticman said experts called in by the PNP were finalizing their simulations, experiments and computations.

"Investigators are consolidating the statements, reports, pieces of evidence and documents needed in the filing of appropriate charges against the parties concerned and the preparation of the final report," he said.

Ticman also said the task force had taken note of the findings submitted by an expert hired by ALI.

"We are seriously considering that, and our own experts will be able to provide answers to their questions," he said.

2-3 weeks

National Capital Region Police Office Director Geary Barias said the task force would complete its final report in two to three weeks and file the charges against those responsible soon after.

He did not name names, but said those liable could be the contractors hired to do work in the basement and the mall administrators.

"We are not yet at that part where we can identify who can be charged. For sure, negligence cannot be discounted here," he said.

Barias said the task force did not hold the press conference to condition the people's minds to the gas explosion theory.

"We are just giving an update of the investigation because many people want to know what's the latest," he said.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay has yet to be apprised of the task force's conclusion, according to Supt. Gilbert Cruz, chief of the Makati police.

Binay had earlier expressed doubt on the gas explosion theory and had called for an independent inquiry.

Not negligence

Asked about the planned filing of charges against those liable for the explosion, ALI's Reyes said: "It is speculative to talk about negligence when no charges have been filed and the authorities have not revealed the basis for their conclusion. Nevertheless, we believe that these facilities have been maintained with proper care and diligence, and that negligence was not a contributory factor to the cause of the explosion."

The Glorietta 2 basement was under the direct control of the Makati Supermarket, which has a land-lease contract with ALI although both tenant and landlord were responsible for the maintenance of the building.

Citing the findings of its own foreign consultants, ALI had earlier disputed the theory that a buildup of methane gas and diesel fumes triggered the explosion at Glorietta 2.

ALI had suggested that the police abandon their "primary hypothesis" that the combination of methane from the sump pits and fumes from the diesel tank in the basement caused the blast, and called on investigators to look into other possibilities.

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office XIV
ORG Compound, Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Procurement of Security Services
Project Reference No. 2008-07-SS-02

The National Food Authority, intends to apply the sum of NINE MILLION ONE HUNDRED EIGHT THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY SEVEN & 28/100 PESOS ONLY (P9,108,587.28) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Procurement of Security Services for NFA Regional/Provincial Offices & its warehouses deployed as follows:

Place of Deployment	No. of Guards	Approved ABC
1. Cotabato City	19	P 2,775,074.64
2. Maguindanao	20	2,585,107.20
3. Marawi City	10	1,292,553.60
4. Lanao Sur	3	387,766.08
5. Sulu	8	1,034,042.88
6. Tawi-Tawi	8	1,034,042.88
TOTAL		P 9,108,587.28

The National Food Authority Regional Office XIV, thru the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Security Services covering January 1 to December 31, 2008. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

Prospective bidders should have an experience of having completed within the last three (3) years at least three similar contracts the aggregate contract amounts should be equivalent to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC of the project to be bid and provided that the largest of these similar contracts must be equivalent to at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the ABC of the project to be bid and provided further that the business/company of the prospective bidder willing to participate in the bidding has been in existence for at least three (3) consecutive years prior to publication of this IAEB.

Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bid (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure. Below is the schedule of bidding activities.

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	DATE/TIME	VENUE
1. Issuance of Eligibility Requirements & Bid Documents	8:00 – 5:00 PM November 24-26, 2007	RBAC Secretariat NFA Regional Office ORG, Cotabato City
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	10:00 AM November 26, 2007	NFA Conference Room NFA, Regional Office ORG, Cotabato City
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements & Bid Documents	NLT 1:00 PM December 10, 2007	NFA RO Library ORG, Cotabato City
4. Opening of Eligibility Requirements & Bid Documents	1:30 PM December 10, 2007	NFA Conference Room NFA, Regional Office ORG, Cotabato City

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased from the RBAC Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) starting November 24 to November 26, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash or GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to 1% or 2.5% of ABC respectively. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend the Bid Opening. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the RBAC Chair, ARD Ofelia M. Sero, RBAC Vice Chair, Provincial Manager Kitem P. Kadatuan and RBAC Member Supervising Enforcement and Investigation Officer Nelson P. Sañada.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders and to accept only such bids most advantageous to the government.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, REGIONAL OFFICE XIV
OFELIA M. SERO, Asst. Regional Director/BAC Chairman
ORG Compound, Cotabato City
Telephone No. (064) 4212407
Fax No. (064) 4212128

(Sgd.) **OFELIA M. SERO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – November 23, 2007)

Padang villagers learn lessons, leave homes

By Ephraim Aguilar
and Joanna Los Baños
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—SAYING IT was better to be safe than sorry, residents of the low-lying village of Padang padlocked their houses and shops and began a mass evacuation with the approach of Typhoon "Mina."

Located about 4 kilometers northeast of Legazpi City proper, Padang looked almost like a no-man's land yesterday as residents heeded official warnings to leave after water spilled over swelling irrigation and river channels connected to the gullies of Mayon Volcano.

The village was one of those hardest hit by Supertyphoon "Reming" last year.

Major arteries in the city were flooded on Monday and Tuesday following heavy rains.

Most of the houses and sari-sari stores in Padang were shut and only pet animals—cats and dogs, as well as chickens—could be seen at street corners.

A few people who had come back to the village after a night in evacuation centers hurried about, carrying plastic bags, baskets with kitchen utensils, clothes, and pitchers of drinking water.

Some men were left in the village to guard their houses and feed their livestock but most said they would leave once Mina was near.

Some mothers returned home to cook food and get beddings and additional clothing before heading back to their designated evacuation center at the Gogon Elementary School.

Zaldy Bolante, 32, kept himself busy by feeding his dogs. He had left his wife and four children in a relative's house in a resettlement site in another barangay.

Bolante said he had to look after the animals and make charcoal which he would bring to the resettlement site since firewood there was scarce.

Bolante, a construction worker, said his family evacuated at 1 p.m. Wednesday, fearing the tragedy caused by Supertyphoon "Reming," which killed hundreds of people in the village last year, would happen again.

"We did not wait anymore for the Army trucks to pick up the evacuees. We left on our own. It's better to be safe than sorry," Bolante said in the vernacular.

He said many people in the village became afraid when floodwaters rose above the knee.

Bolante said thieves usually took advantage of disaster situations so he made sure his house was locked.

Barangay Councilor Jayson Bataller said more than 100 families from Padang, consisting of more than 500 people, had evacuated to the Gogon school.

Almost 200 of them were children.

"We are safe here (Gogon). We don't have that scared feeling anymore," Bataller said.

He said that as of Thursday morning, the evacuees had three sacks of rice, distributed at one kilo per family.

"We also received cartboard boxes, which served as sleeping mats, especially for the children," he said.

Priscilla Arienda, 30, who is four months pregnant with her sixth child, said life at the evacuation center might be difficult but she had no cause to complain.

1M Bicol folk told to flee storm

From page A1

Albay Disaster Coordinating Council and the Office of Civil Defense showed.

Another 2,275 people had fled to evacuation centers in Camarines Sur and 1,125 to shelters in Sorsogon, relief officials said.

"We cannot prevent disasters but certainly we can undertake measures to prevent the loss of lives and reduce damage to property," said President Macapagal-Arroyo, who flew back home on Wednesday night after attending a summit of Southeast Asian leaders in Singapore.

Signal No. 2

Tropical Storm "Mina" gained strength and developed into a full-blown typhoon yesterday as it swirled nearer to land, packing winds of 140 kph, with gusts of 170 kph.

As of 4 p.m., it was hovering over the Philippine Sea and could hit Catanduanes by Saturday, weather bureau experts said.

Aside from Catanduanes, Storm Signal No. 2 has been raised over Sorsogon, Albay, Burias island, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, southern Quezon and northern Samar.

Signal No. 1 was raised over Romblon, Marinduque, Batangas, Laguna, the rest of Quezon, Aurora, Rizal, Oriental Mindoro, Masbate, western Samar, eastern Samar and Biliran island.

'Forced evacuation'

Salceda said that although Ms Arroyo's order was for "a preemptive evacuation" of threatened areas, "what we are actually doing now is a forced evacuation of residents in lahar-prone areas."

Those refusing to leave their houses would be made to sign a waiver that they chose not to be evacuated, he said.

If they refuse to sign the waiver, police will be authorized to put their names down on the blotter, he added.

Memories of "Reming"

The threat from Mina came almost a year to the day after Supertyphoon "Reming" ravaged the Bicol and Southern Tagalog regions with 195 kph center winds.

Reming killed 734 people, mostly in Bicol, and injured more than 1,000. It wrecked or damaged more than half a million houses.

NIÑO ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

PREPAREDNESS: Residents of Barangay Binitayan take their personal belongings on their way to an elementary school in Daraga, Albay, which has been designated as an evacuation site in the run-up to Tropical Storm "Mina." President Arroyo has ordered what's called a preemptive evacuation.

"We have not yet recovered from Reming and now there is another typhoon coming," one Albay resident said on television.

Hundreds of people who lost their homes during Reming are still homeless up to now, staying in cramped evacuation centers.

Back-to-back cyclones

Mina threatened the Bicol area shortly after Storm "Lando" pummeled the Visayas region, killing 11 people.

Vicente Manalo, senior Pagasa forecaster, urged residents on the path of floods and lahar from Mayon Volcano to evacuate.

Cedric Daep, head of the Albay provincial disaster coordinating committee, said residents of communities near the slopes of Mayon and those living near river channels were the first to be moved out.

Areas prone to mudflows or lahar include parts of the cities of Tabaco, Ligao and Legazpi and the towns of Guinobatan, Camalig, Daraga, Sto. Domingo and Malilipot.

Residents in the towns of Oas, Libon and Polangui, tagged flood-prone, were also ordered to flee.

Families in danger areas of Legazpi, Tabaco, Tiwi, Bacacay, Malinao, Malilipot, Sto. Domingo and Manito will also have to be moved out, Salceda said.

Children, women first

The governor warned that families living on the coast were at risk of storm surges. People living in houses made of light materials also must go, he said.

Salceda said women and children were the first to be evacuated while male members of the families were allowed to stay behind to watch over their houses until Storm Signal No. 3 is hoisted and then they must leave, too.

He said he had asked Ms Arroyo to release at least P67 million for Albay to buy food and water for the evacuees.

The province has run out of medicines, according to Dr. Julian Salazar, assistant provincial health officer.

Salceda said he had ordered prices of basic commodities monitored to prevent traders from taking advantage of the impending disaster by jacking up prices.

Misery, elsewhere

Classes have been suspended and public schools will be converted into shelters for the expected flood of thousands of evacuees.

As of 5 p.m., evacuation was still going on in the threatened provinces.

Salceda said 62 percent of the 53,000 people living in lahar-prone areas had already been evacuated.

He said more than 10,000 families still had to be moved out of flood-prone areas.

Pagasa said that even if Albay would not be directly hit, heavy rains and strong winds were still expected in the province.

As of 3:30 p.m. yesterday, the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council of Camarines Sur listed 32 flooded barangays in the towns of Magarao, Caramoan, Buhi and Bato.

Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte Jr. ordered forced evacuations in flooded and landslide-prone areas.

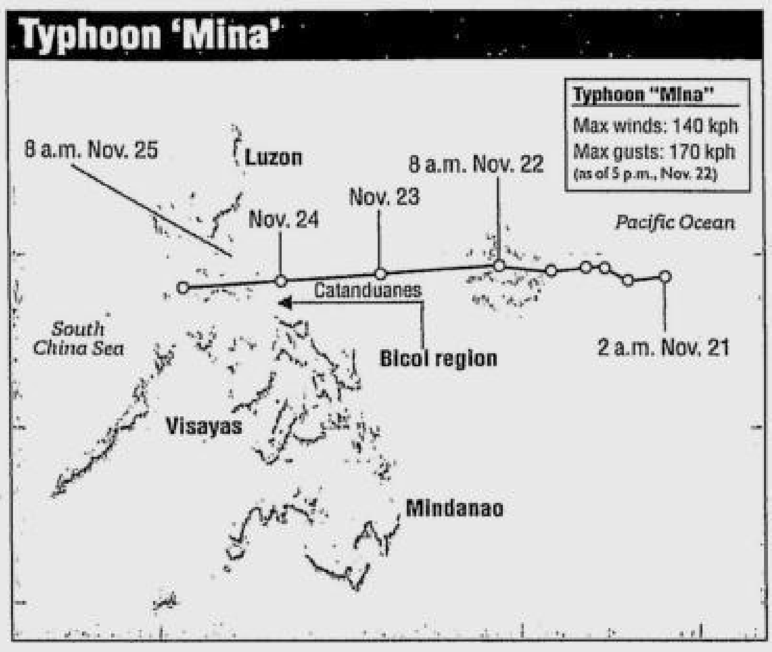
Evacuations were also going on in Sorsogon.

In Catanduanes, sea travel has been suspended, stranding hundreds of people in ports.

In a report to the regional disaster council, Catanduanes Gov. Joseph Cua said heavy rains had made "all water conduits overflowing and hillsides more prone to soil movements."

JET-HOPPING: President Arroyo is welcomed by Surigao City Mayor Alfonso Casura (left) and Surigao del Norte Gov. Robert Ace Barbers (2nd from left) upon her arrival at the Surigao airport from an overnight stay in Davao City and the Asean summit in Singapore to attend the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council meeting. Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro is behind Ms Arroyo. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Typhoon 'Mina'



Major roads in Catanduanes remained impassable following landslides and rockfalls triggered by Lando, Cua said.

The Viga national section road and some roads leading to and from Virac, San Miguel, Viga, Payo, Bagamanoc, Pandan, Caramoran, Pangsabloyon, Bato, Baras and Gigmoto were either closed or hardly passable due to landslides, he said.

In Camarines Norte, flooding has cut off the route along Maharlika Highway at Sitio Namunakan, Barangay Daguit, in the town of Labo.

Arnel S. Ferrer of the Public Safety Office and Emergency Management Office reported that the flooding was caused by heavy rains since Tuesday that made the river swell and spill over to the highway, stranding buses plying the superhighway to Bicol, the Visayas and Mindanao areas.

Mindoro also suffers

In Oriental Mindoro, the municipal council of Naujan declared the entire town under a state of calamity after knee-deep floodwaters brought by incessant rains inundated at least 16 villages.

Senior Supt. Agrimero Cruz, Oriental Mindoro police director, said the affected villages were mostly farming communities.

Despite the stormy weather yesterday, Ms Arroyo hopped from one city to another in Mindanao to inspect areas devastated by Lando and to check on preparations for the approach of Mina.

Upon her arrival late Wednesday from Singapore, she headed straight to Davao City on a Learjet, spending the night there.

Yesterday, she first flew to Cagayan de Oro City then proceeded by helicopter to Iligan City, Surigao City and Tandag in Surigao del Sur.

In a speech in Iligan City, she asked local government units to use 5 percent of their budget as mandated by law for typhoon preparations to minimize the loss of lives and damage to property.

More radars needed

Ms Arroyo also said she had directed the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to install additional Doppler radar stations in Central Visayas and Mindanao so that it could monitor and provide prompt and accurate weather advisories.

A Doppler radar is a key forecasting tool to detect the location, direction and speed of a typhoon, and to predict its path, among other things.

It uses radio waves to create pictures showing the location and intensity of precipitation, allowing scientists to measure the motion inside storms.

Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. ordered the activation of his office's disaster preparedness plan.

DPWH regional director Orlando Roces said he had already deployed heavy equipment and maintenance crews in critical areas to respond to emergencies.

Almost P36 million worth of palay and corn were lost due to damage wrought by Lando, prompting the Department of Agriculture (DA) to offer assistance to affected farmers.

The DA Central Action Center said that palay losses amounted to P18 million while corn losses were estimated at P17.44 million.

With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Margaux C. Ortiz, Riza T. Olchondra, in Manila, and Juan Escandor Jr., Romulo Ponte, Bobby Labalan, and Marlon Ramos, Jaymee T. Gamil, Inquirer Southern Luzon and Richel Umel, Inquirer Mindanao

World Bank probe on corruption done; disclosure later

From page A1

the $232-million loan would not depend on whether the Philippine government itself would prosecute companies or persons involved in bid rigging and excessive pricing.

"The process that's underway now is not dependent on charges being made by the government. That's the government's decision. Ours is an administrative process, not a criminal process," he said.

Stephens refused to cite the companies involved in the supposed irregularities in NRIMP-1 that led to the World Bank's deferment of the $232-million loan.

But he said the program was still on the table and that for the next board discussions on NRIMP-2, the World Bank would seek reforms in the bidding guidelines for road projects.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. had earlier cited supposed flaws in the World Bank's bidding framework, which, he said, allowed bidders to quote higher than a proponent agency's estimated project cost.

"It takes as long as necessary for us as an institution to satisfy that this project is going to fulfill the requirements and stated purpose with the highest standards of integrity that's expected of us," Stephens said yesterday at a press briefing conducted jointly with the Philippine government.

"We're committed not to do something quickly but to doing it properly," he said.

In the same briefing, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the government would look for alternative sources of financing in the event the World Bank decides not to grant the $232-million loan for NRIMP-2.

Teves said the government considers the project essential and does not intend to abandon it even with the uncertainty of a World Bank loan.

"Funding of the project can be flexible. If the World Bank decides not to go ahead, we will have to consider alternative financing," he said.

Teves said the government would try tapping other multilateral agencies or direct some government-owned and -controlled corporations to help raise the necessary funds.

He said the private sector could also be asked to invest in the project, and the local government units concerned to shoulder the financing needs concerned.

Stephens said that whenever issues of irregularity arose in the World Bank's projects anywhere in the world, the same process was followed: "There's a process of investigation, discussion with the government, a decision made within the government on the prosecution of companies—or not—and then a course of action."

Companies found guilty of irregularities are then barred from doing any business with the World Bank in the future and their names are published, he said.

So far, 300 companies worldwide are on the lending agency's blacklist.

Maryse Gautier, acting country director of World Bank Philippines, also affirmed the bank's commitment to the NRIMP.

Working with the gov't

"We have decided to work with the government and prepare the new project based on the lessons learned from the cancellation of the bidding process," she said.

Gautier clarified that the World Bank board had not suspended the NRIMP itself but deferred its decision on the proposed loan for Phase 2.

The NRIMP is an adaptable program composed of three phases. The loan for Phase 1 was $150 million, of which $138 million has been disbursed. The loan for Phase 2 is $232 million, and that for Phase 3 is expected to range between $200 million and 250 million.

Funding mix

NRIMP-2 includes the rehabilitation of 1,102 kilometers of roads nationwide. The project has already been taken into account in the government's borrowing program for 2008.

"If the World Bank does not approve the [$232-million] loan, we have to do some modification in the funding mix for 2008," Teves said.

The Development Budget Coordination Committee, an interagency body tasked with setting the state's fiscal and macroeconomic programs, has temporarily set the government's foreign-currency denominated borrowings at $2.6 billion (or P125.4 billion) for next year.

Of the amount of foreign borrowings, $1 billion (or P48 billion) will be borrowed from commercial sources. The bigger amount of $1.6 billion (or P77.4 billion) will be composed of borrowings from multilateral agencies.

The government is also programmed to borrow P220.7 billion from domestic sources.

Teves said the amount of foreign borrowings would be changed if the World Bank refuses to grant the expected loan and if the government would be able to find local funding.

He stressed, however, that the government's focus at the moment is to convince the World Bank that safeguards have been set up to make bidding processes comply with its standards.

"We are confident that the World Bank will approve the loan for the second phase and will be satisfied [with the safeguards]," Teves said.

Collusion

The World Bank decided to suspend discussions on the approval of the loan for NRIMP-2 amid allegations of corruption in the implementation of Phase 1.

The allegations were that there was collusion between a bidder and some government officials.

Three projects included in Phase 1, comprising 10 percent of the total projects covered in that phase, were also canceled. Those three projects were worth $33 million.

Bongbong fails to deliver vs Lucio Tan

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE CAMP OF TYCOON LUCIO Tan yesterday expressed frustration over the stalled testimony of Ilocos Norte Rep. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos who had promised to bring to court documents that would prove that his late father, the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, owned a big chunk of the Chinese-Filipino businessman's companies.

"The court must set a deadline for the [government] to obtain these documents. The case should not be held hostage by its inability to get the documents. We can't wait forever," Tan's lawyer, Estelito Mendoza, told reporters after yesterday's hearing on the case.

Marcos in August informed the court he would have the original documents that were in the custody of the US Customs Service in his possession by October.

The documents were confiscated from the Marcoses on their arrival at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii on Feb. 26, 1986, after they fled the People Power revolt against them in the Philippines.

Marcos had said the documents included deeds of sale, stock certificates and deeds of assignment that would supposedly show how the assets of his father and Tan were placed in Shareholdings Inc., a holding company for all the firms now controlled by the businessman.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) expects the young Marcos' testimony to bolster its more than 20-year-old bid to recover the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses that is allegedly being held for them by close associates of the late strongman.

Marcos, however, did not appear before the Sandiganbayan Fifth Division yesterday.

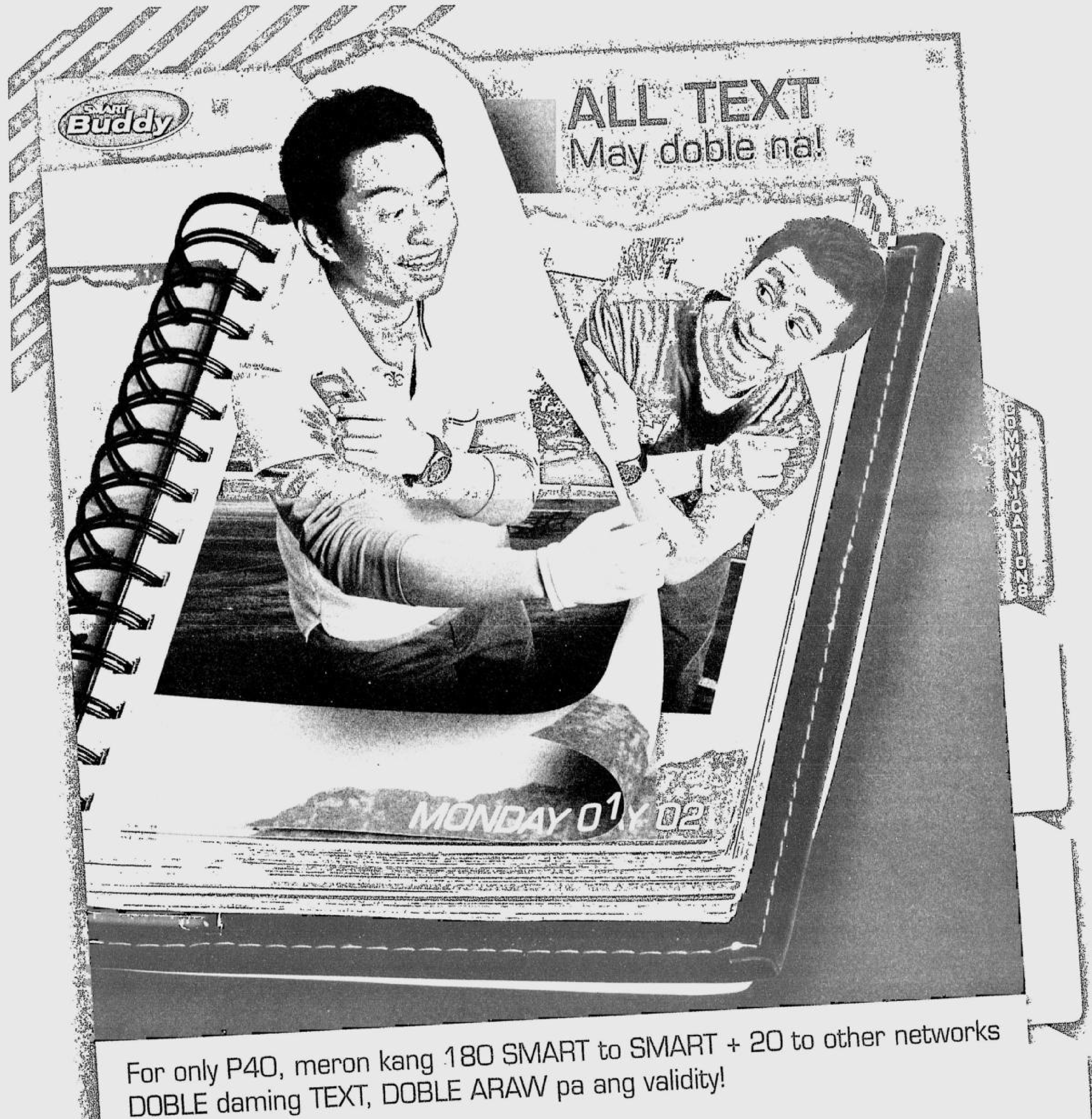
PCGG lawyer Catalino Generillo said Marcos had yet to obtain the documents.

"He will still continue his testimony. But if obtaining these documents would take a longer time, I would ask him to testify on other matters including his other meetings with Tan," Generillo said in an interview.

The young Marcos had earlier testified that his late father had shown the documents to his family and had even drawn them a "sketch" showing how his partnership with Tan worked.

But the absence of the young Marcos from court did not stop the government from presenting more evidence against Tan.

At yesterday's proceeding, Generillo cross-examined the director of the Malacañang museum, Jeremy Barns, who brought to court 91 documents purportedly showing the late President had given Tan concessions in order to advance his businesses.



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Charges filed vs MPD officer in Dalaig case

Colleague faces qualified theft raps after items were allegedly stolen

By Tina G. Santos and Beverly T. Natividad

ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES were filed yesterday against a Manila police officer and his subordinate in connection with the alleged loss of cash and jewelry owned by a slain Commission on Elections official.

Charges against Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling, who was relieved as head of the Manila Police District homicide division, and SPO2 Benito Cabatbat, were filed in the National Capital Region Police Office in Bicutan, Taguig City. A case for qualified theft was also filed against Cabatbat in the Manila Prosecutor's Office.

The charges stemmed from allegations that P7,000 was taken from the P334,910 cash found on Comelec legal department head Alioden Dalaig who was shot by an unidentified gunman on Nov. 10 in Ermita. There were also claims that an attempt was made to replace Dalaig's gold bracelet with a fake. Another report said a two-karat ring was also missing from Dalaig's personal belongings.

"Major Yanquiling was charged because of command responsibility. He failed to supervise fully SPO2 Cabatbat in handling the pieces of evidence recovered from Director Dalaig," said Supt. Nelson Yabut, MPD criminal investigation and detection unit head.

Cabatbat reportedly became the custodian of the victim's personal belongings as they were handed over to him by a staff member of the Ospital ng Maynila where Dalaig was taken after the shooting.

"We're still trying to determine if Yanquiling should also be charged with qualified theft," Yabut said.

The cases stemmed from a complaint of Filomena Gallentes, Dalaig's companion. She said the gold bracelet given to her by Cabatbat was not Dalaig's. Cabatbat allegedly also refused to release the money recovered from Dalaig, saying it belonged to an unidentified politician from Bulacan.

On Nov. 17, Cabatbat allegedly handed over to the family P328,000, instead of P334,910. Yanquiling, however, said that what was given to Dalaig's family was what they got from the hospital staff.

Meanwhile, the Comelec denied that it intervened in the investigation, saying it was only interested in the solution of the case.

Yanquiling claimed on television that Police Insp. Arnel Almiñe asked him to veer away from the corruption angle.

Almiñe, however, said he met Yanquiling once to request a copy of the initial police investigation.

WORKERS take down a giant billboard at the corner of Kamuning Road along Edsa as a safety precaution with the approach of Typhoon Mina. JOAN BONDOC

More traffic aides for Mandaluyong

By Kristine L. Alave

THE MANDALUYONG CITY GOVernment has opposed the plan to build a bus stop and separate lanes on Edsa in front of the Ortigas Business District.

Instead, Mayor Benhur Abalos asked the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to deploy more traffic personnel in the busy stretch because of the expected increase in vehicles with the approach of the Christmas.

At the same time, the city government is coordinating with establishments in the Ortigas Business District to help ease traffic in the area.

Abalos said he would consider the MMDA proposal to construct the bus stop only if an increase in the number of enforcers did not improve traffic in the area.

The mayor said building a bus stop and concrete barriers in the middle of a lane would be costly. If the project fails, then the local government would have no choice but to remove the barriers.

The area is one of the busiest in the metropolis because of the presence of several major malls.

Mandaluyong City spokesperson Jimmy Isidro said the city government's past experience with separate traffic lanes in that part of Edsa was not good.

In October, the MMDA installed metal and concrete barriers in the middle of the avenue to separate public and private vehicles.

The barriers were put up without the local government's permission. Abalos later ordered the dismantling of the barriers.

The MMDA had intended to put up barriers in the Mandaluyong part of Edsa similar to the recently finished separate lanes near Santolan, Quezon City.

UP stude loses TRO case vs school tribunal

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A QUEZON CITY COURT YESterday denied the petition for the issuance of a temporary restraining order filed by a graduating law student and Sigma Rho fraternity member, allowing administrative proceedings against him to proceed in connection with the death of alleged hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez.

Quezon City RTC branch 220 Judge Jose G. Paneda said Juan Paolo Fajardo failed to show that he was "being prevented from completing his law course at the University of the Philippines College of Law," thus, there was no basis to temporarily stop the ongoing hearings of the UP student disciplinary tribunal (SDT) on the alleged hazing incident.

The SDT had filed administrative charges against Fajardo and 13 other students and members of the Sigma Rho which Mendez allegedly joined as a neophyte.

'Remove billboards, signs before typhoon hits Metro'

By Abigail L. Ho

THE MANILA ELECTRIC CO. IS urging billboard owners and operators to dismantle the giant signs in preparation for Typhoon Mina.

Meralco said the billboards could topple posts and cut electrical lines, causing power outages and other accidents.

The company's vice president for corporate communication, Elpi Cuna said that in past typhoons, billboards not only caused damage to power facilities and other properties but also injured people.

He also advised people living close to trees that could affect power lines to trim the trees immediately or ask Meralco to do it for them.

Tree-trimming, he said, should be done regularly to prevent any untoward incidents.

Cuna assured the public that Meralco was doing everything within its capacity to make its systems ready to handle the effects of the coming typhoon and to respond immediately in case of power interruptions.

He said the power company had already taken the necessary precautionary measures to reduce the adverse effects of Typhoon Mina in its franchise area.

Meralco provides electricity to Metro Manila, Rizal, Bulacan, Cavite, and parts of Laguna, Quezon, Batangas and Pampanga.

Tree conservation program launched at Rizal Park

By Tina G. Santos

THINKING OF WHAT TO GIVE your loved ones this Christmas?

A tree sapling could be a perfect gift, according to former First Lady Amelita "Ming" Ramos, who led yesterday's launching at Manila's Rizal Park of Trees4Life, a campaign to rehabilitate the country's various forest resources.

"Instead of material things, why not give trees as gifts which you could name after your loved ones," she said. "It's a perfect gift idea this Christmas."

Trees4Life is a pioneering program of the Clean and Green Foundation Inc. of which Ramos is the chair.

The campaign calls for the conservation and preservation of native trees in the country in line with biodiversity conservation, said the former First Lady.

"Trees4Life is not just planting but also the nurturing of endemic and indigenous tree species," Ramos added. "It encourages the participation of the community through livelihood activities such as seed-gathering and seedling propagation in the locality, making it a stakeholder in the conservation program."

Teenage boy could have drowned after saving brother

By Kristine L. Alave

A 13-YEAR-OLD BOY WHO saved his younger brother from drowning in the Pasig River Wednesday afternoon could have drowned after the rescue.

The boys' father, Randy Nayre, 34, of Barangay Rosario, Pasig, said his sons were swimming in the river near Floodway, Pasig City when the accident happened at about 4:30 p.m.

Around that time, the floodgates' barriers were opened to prevent flooding in low-lying areas of Pasig and Marikina cities.

The current apparently was too strong for 9-year-old Ranquillo so he called out to his brother for help, his father said.

Ryan managed to bring Ranquillo to the river bank, but the teenager could have lost his footing in the sloping concrete and fell into the water.

The family said Ryan always looked after his younger brother.

Another Nayre son, Roel, drowned in the river about three years ago. He was 9 years old when the accident happened.

Barangay councilman Felix Santos, head of the Barangay Ugong Rescue Team, said they would continue searching for the boy, although they feared the currents could have swept his body to Laguna Lake.

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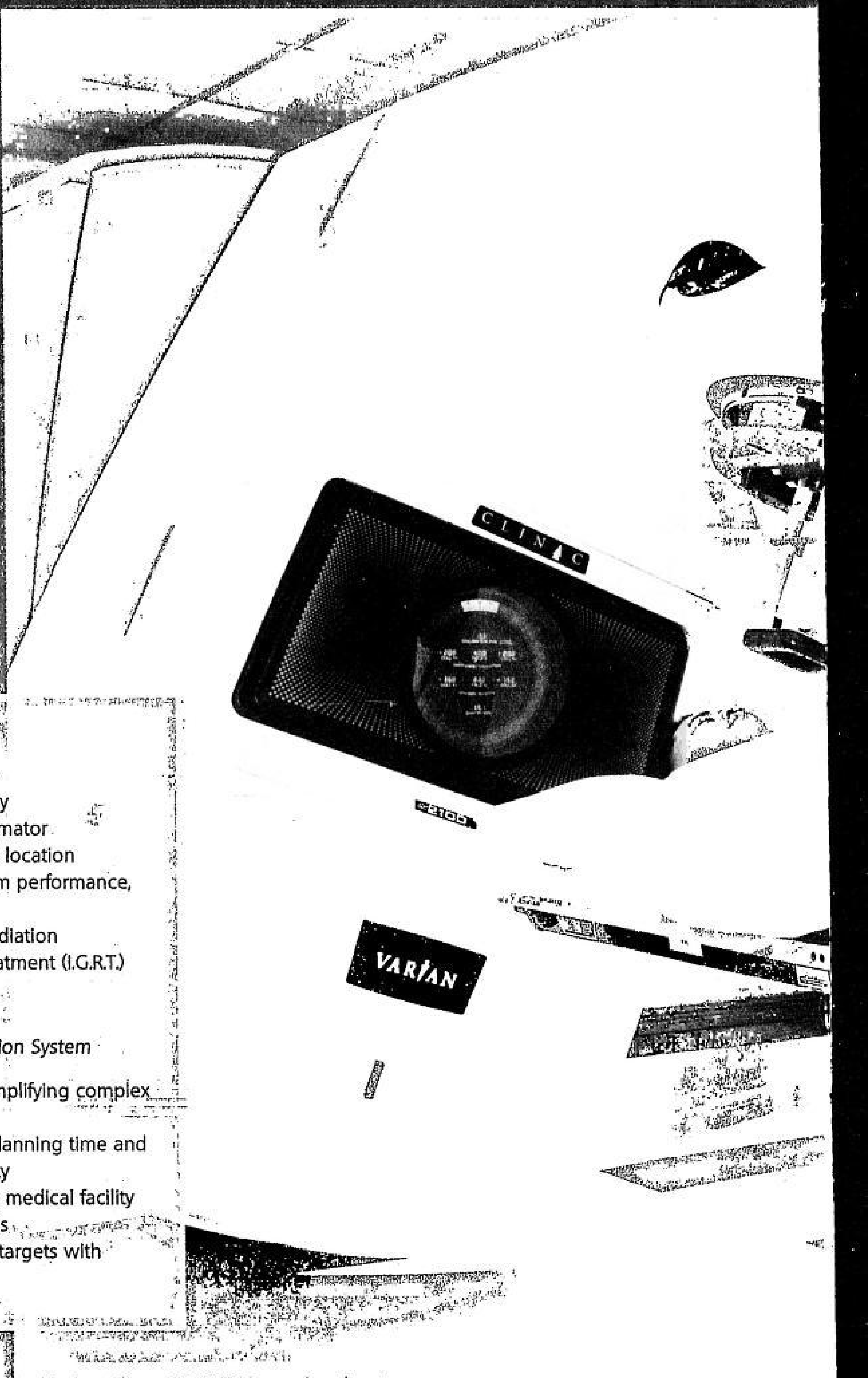

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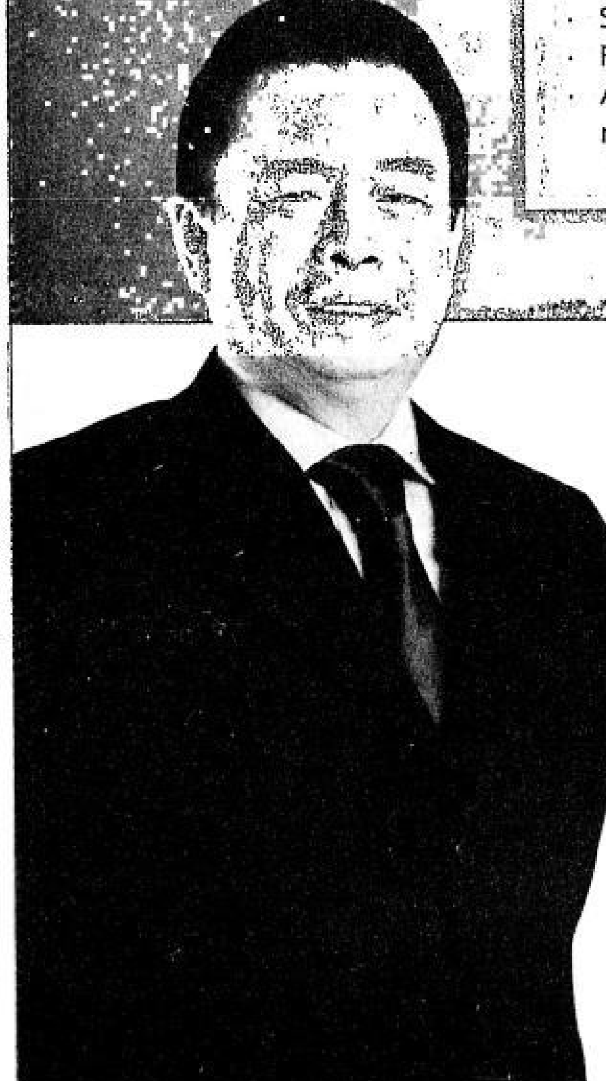

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Major computer privacy breach hits UK

LONDON—THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT STRUGGLED Wednesday to explain its loss of computer disks containing detailed personal information on 25 million Britons, including an unknown number of bank account identifiers, in what analysts described as potentially the most significant privacy breach of the digital era.

It has defended its decision not to reveal the loss until Tuesday, 10 days after it had been informed, saying banks had asked for time to put heightened security measures in place first.

The data went astray in October, after two computer disks that contained information on families that receive government benefits for children were sent out from a government tax agency unregistered, via private delivery service. The episode is one of three this year in which the agency improperly handled its vast archive of personal data, according to an account by the chancellor of the exchequer—including the sending of a second set of disks when the first set did not arrive.

The disks lost in Britain contained detailed personal information on 40 percent of the population: Besides the bank account numbers, there were names, addresses and national insurance numbers, the British equivalent of Social Security numbers. They also held data on almost every child under 16.

The head of the tax agency, Paul Gray, resigned Tuesday, and Prime Minister Gordon Brown apologized to the nation on Wednesday and said he had ordered a review of the government's handling of all private data. The data breach offered the opposition new ammunition. David Cameron, the leader of the Conservative Party, said in Parliament that the government had "failed in its first duty—to protect the public."

Bank officials said they had scrutinized their records back to Oct. 18, when the disks were mailed, but had discerned no unusual account activity, and the government pledged that no individuals would be responsible for any losses related to the security breach. British families are eligible for a weekly payment of $36.30 for their first child, and $25 per additional child. Those who choose to have the money deposited directly into bank accounts must provide this information to the government.

The disks were protected by a password, the government said, but were not encrypted. They were sent by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, the country's tax collection agency, to the National Audit Office, which monitors government spending, via a parcel delivery company, TNT. *NYT*

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Pakistan court clears way for Musharraf's 2nd term

MUSHARRAF AP

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's Supreme Court, stacked with judges friendly to President Pervez Musharraf, on Thursday threw out a final challenge to his reelection and paved the way for him to quit as army chief. The long-awaited ruling comes as Musharraf faces the prospect of Pakistan's second suspension from the Commonwealth since he took power in a bloodless 1999 coup, because he continues to resist calls to fully lift emergency rule imposed on Nov.3. "Dismissed," Chief Justice Abdul Hamid Dogar said after hearing the petition, the sixth and final challenge to Musharraf's Oct. 6 reelection to be thrown out by the court. Musharraf repeatedly promised to relinquish his army post and be sworn in as a civilian leader for a second five-year term in what he calls a transition to civilian-led democracy once his reelection had been endorsed by the court. *Reuters*

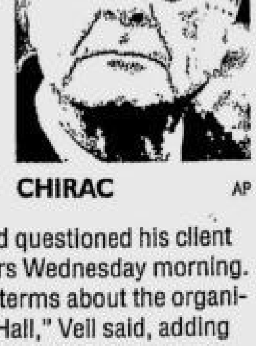
Fears of disease, starvation stalk cyclone-hit Bangladesh

DHAKA—The fear of disease and starvation was growing in Bangladesh Thursday as relief workers battled the clock to get vital aid to cyclone victims who have been without adequate food and water for a week. In some places, aid workers said the obstacles were so great that the immediate focus was simply to supply enough to keep people alive. The desperately-needed supplies were reaching victims slowly because many roads had been washed away and narrow waterways—in some cases the only means of access—were blocked by fallen tress. "What we are giving them is not enough. Some people have not eaten for days," said Wahida Bashar Ahmed of ActionAid. "It is unbelievable how people have been surviving in these conditions," she added. Cyclone Sidr smashed into Bangladesh's southern coast last Thursday evening before cutting a swathe through central districts. It wiped out countless villages and killed more than 3,400 people. Millions more are estimated to be without shelter. *AFP*

HIV drug resistance reported in central China

HONG KONG—Significant numbers of people living with HIV in central China have developed full-blown AIDS despite receiving free antiretroviral (ARV) drugs, a leading AIDS researcher said on Thursday. "Recent studies found that a significant portion of patients still developed AIDS after two years of treatment due to the problem of drug resistance," said Chen Zhiwei, director of the newly opened AIDS Institute at the University of Hong Kong. Hundreds of thousands of farmers in the central Chinese province of Henan were infected in the 1990s through schemes in which people sold blood to unsanitary, often state-run health clinics, making the province the center of China's AIDS epidemic. *Reuters*

Chirac under investigation for misuse of funds as mayor


CHIRAC AP

PARIS—Former President Jacques Chirac was placed under formal investigation on Wednesday on suspicion of misusing public funds by handing out bogus work contracts when he was mayor of Paris. Chirac's lawyer, Jacques Veil, said that a judge who was examining "fraudulent misuse of public funds" had questioned his client for three and a half hours Wednesday morning. "They talked in general terms about the organization of the Paris City Hall," Veil said, adding that more hearings would follow. Chirac, who was mayor from 1977 to 1995 and then president of France until May, defended himself in an article published Wednesday on the opinion pages of Le Monde. He wrote that he had made "legitimate and necessary" appointments while he was mayor, and that "there was never any personal enrichment." *NYT*

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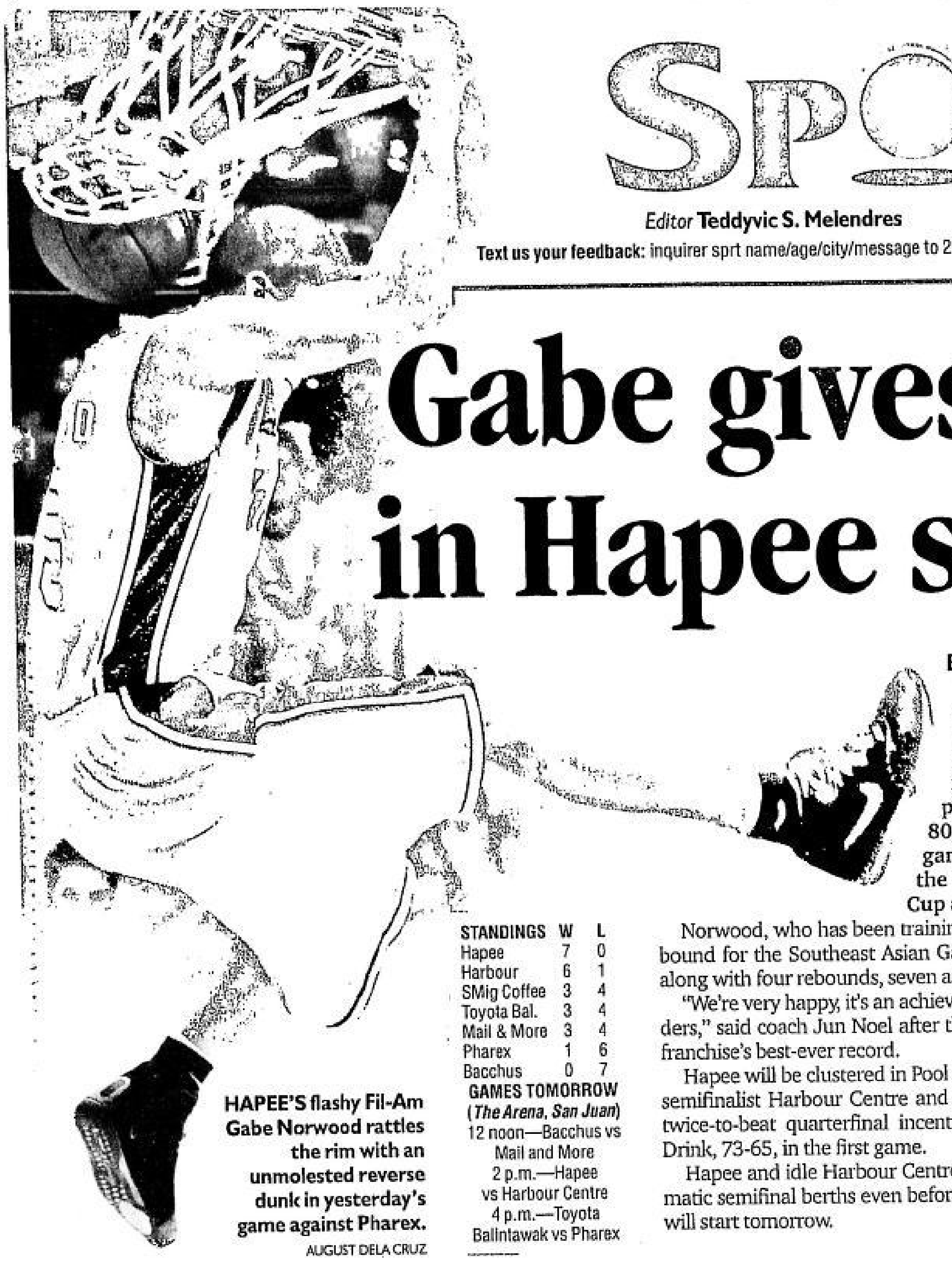


HAPEE'S flashy Fil-Am Gabe Norwood rattles the rim with an unmolested reverse dunk in yesterday's game against Pharex.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Jasmine W. Payo

SHOWING NO SIGNS OF burnout, Fil-Am Gabe Norwood came up with his worthiest performance yet as Hapee Toothpaste overwhelmed Pharex, 103-80, yesterday to complete a seven-game elimination-round sweep of the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup at The Arena in San Juan.

Norwood, who has been training with the Harbour-Philippine Team bound for the Southeast Asian Games, posted a game-high 24 points along with four rebounds, seven assists, a pair of steals and a block.

"We're very happy, it's an achievement; our fastbreak points did wonders," said coach Jun Noel after the Complete Protectors recorded the franchise's best-ever record.

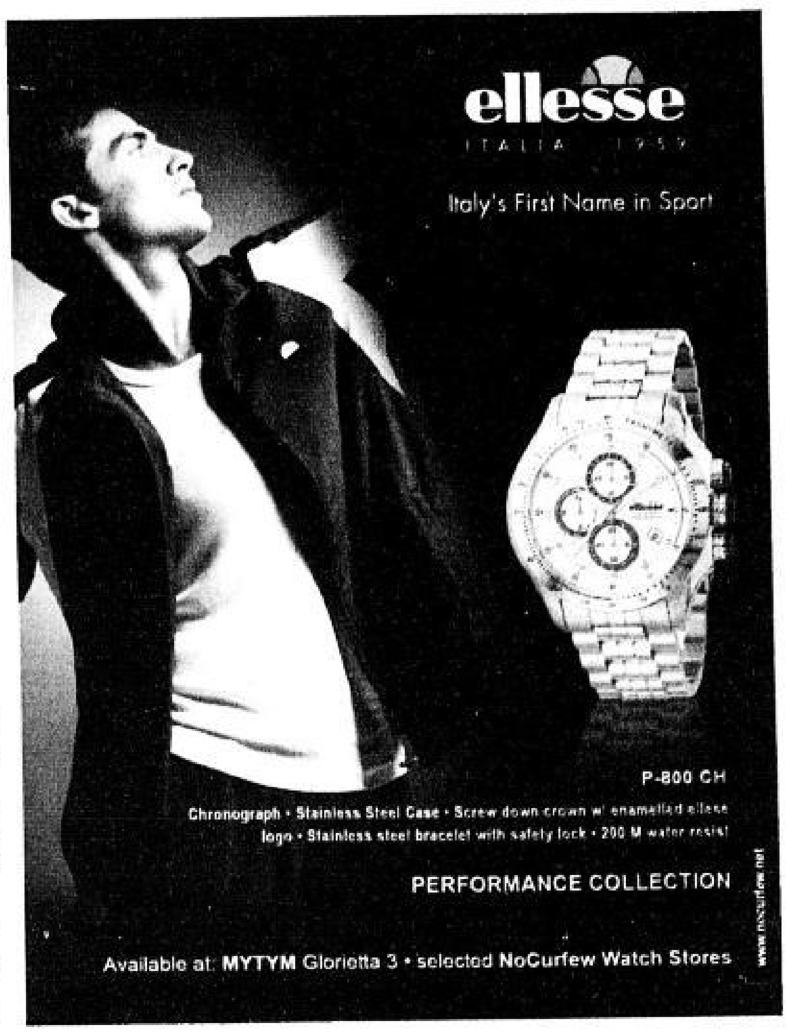
Hapee will be clustered in Pool A in the next round along with fellow semifinalist Harbour Centre and San Mig Coffee, which clinched the twice-to-beat quarterfinal incentive after outlasting Bacchus Energy Drink, 73-65, in the first game.

Hapee and idle Harbour Centre, running second at 6-1, seized automatic semifinal berths even before advancing to the pool round, which will start tomorrow.

GABE/ A30

STANDINGS	W	L
Hapee	7	0
Harbour	6	1
SMig Coffee	3	4
Toyota Bal.	3	4
Mail & More	3	4
Pharex	1	6
Bacchus	0	7

GAMES TOMORROW
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
12 noon—Bacchus vs Mail and More
2 p.m.—Hapee vs Harbour Centre
4 p.m.—Toyota Balintawak vs Pharex



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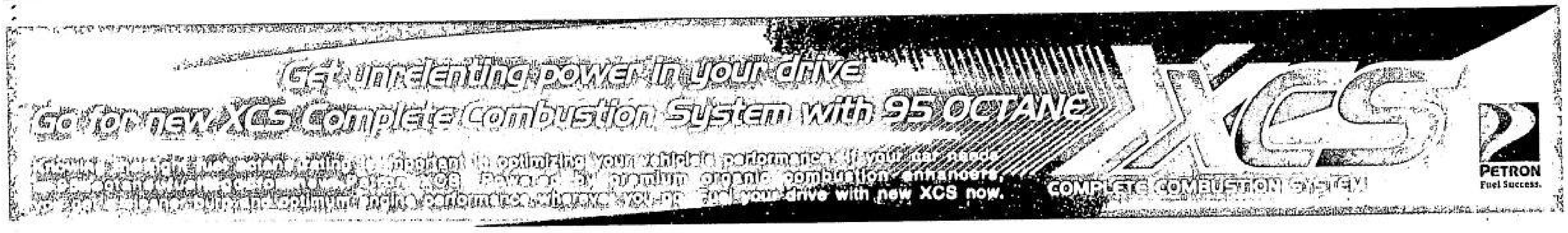

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Arevalo stuns Japanese, gains ITF q'finals

AREVALO: Lone Filipina left

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CZARINA MAE AREVALO PULLED OFF A shock win over seeded Japanese Ayumi Oka and reached the quarterfinals of the Smart-PLDT ITF women's tennis tournament at the Manila Polo Club shellcourts.

Flashing agility and verve, Arevalo blew past fifth seed Oka, 7-6 (0), 7-5, to keep the country's campaign going following the early departure of three compatriots.

Arevalo now goes up against feisty second seed Vlada Ekshibarova of Uzbekistan who fashioned out a 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 triumph over Indonesia's Jessy Rompies.

"She's the second seed. I can't tell my chances against her because she's tough," said the stocky 5-foot-7 Arevalo. "I will just do my best."

Considering that no Filipino bet has gone past the second round in the tournament's first phase last week, Arevalo's win proved to be a tough feat, one that even surprised the 22-year-old who is looking forward to her coming Southeast Asian Games stint.

"She (Oka) played flat," Arevalo said of the Japanese netter.

Oka, who bowed out in the second round last week, put up a gallant stand in the first set when she forged a tiebreak.

But the rally fell short as the Filipina scholar at University of Bangkok hammered her way to a love-game.

Arevalo later admitted that she got inspired by the presence of her manager Tina La'O, who she said watched her last play two years ago.

Also making the quarterfinals was Thai Varanya Vijuksanaboon, who upset top seed Anastasia Poltoratskaya, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4. Vijuksanaboon will face last week's runner-up Kai Chen-chang who outlasted Vivien Silfany Tony, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (3).

Last week's winner Nicole Riner of Switzerland also advanced after booting out Jeong Yoon-young of Korea, 6-4, 6-0. Her next opponent is Chinese Taipei's Chen Yi, a 6-2, 6-3 victor over Korea's Hye Mi-byun.

Seventh seed Ling Zhang hacked out a 7-5, 6-1 win over Korea's Da Jung-hong to advance against Margarita Edinarova, who disposed of third seed Eun Hye Cho, 7-5, 6-4.

Bata, 2 others unscathed in All Japan pool

VETERAN EFREN "BATA" REYES, DEFENDing champion Lee Vann Corteza and Warren Kiamco hurdled their first two rivals at the start of the 40th All Japan Championship at the Hotel New Archaic Hall in Amagasaki-shi, Hyogo, Japan Wednesday.

The 53-year-old Reyes clobbered D. Enami and Y. Morino of Japan, while Corteza, 28, downed T. Haraguchi of Japan and 2007 Guinness Asian 9-Ball tour overall grand finale champion Chang Jung-lin of Taiwan.

The 38-year-old Kiamco outplayed K. Suzuki and A. Shiraiwa of Japan to keep Filipino hopes flying high in the double elimination event which offers Y2,000,000 (P800,000) to the champion.

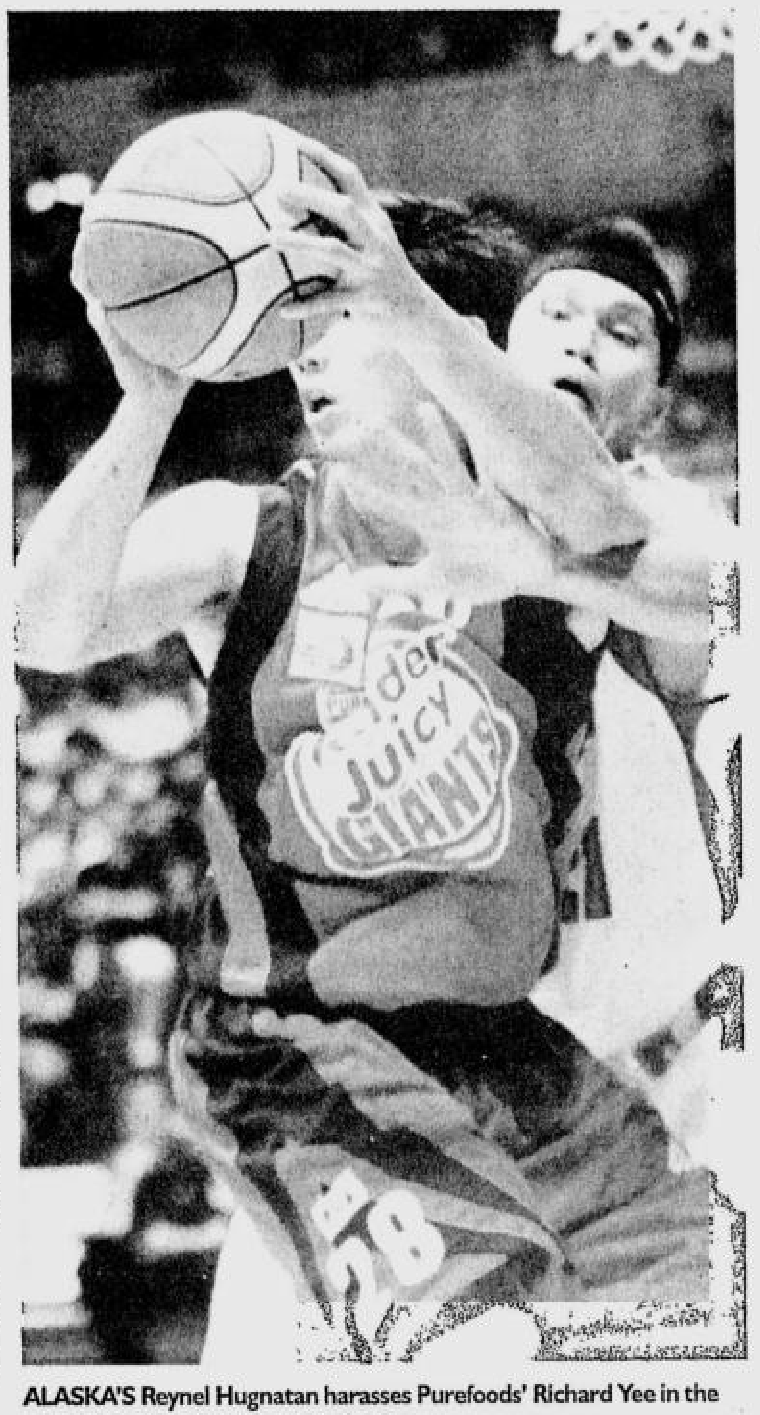
In the next round, Reyes goes up against K. Hirota of Japan, Corteza tests the mettle of 2005 Taiwan World Pool runner-up Kuo Pocheng of Taiwan, and Kiamco meets two-time Asian Games 9-ball gold medalist Yang Chingshun of Taiwan.

Hirota earlier crushed compatriots M. Mizushita and Y. Mori, Kuo blasted Lee Chenman of Hong Kong and T. Yamamoto of Japan while Yang walloped H. Kato of Japan and Toh Lian Han of Singapore, in order.

Two other RP bets, former world No. 1 Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Ramil Gallego, split their first two matches and fell into the loser's bracket.

The 43-year-old Bustamante nipped T. Noda of Japan but succumbed to Japanese Y. Hisada in the next round. Gallego beat Au Chiwai of Hong Kong but yielded to Hung Hsiangwang of Taiwan.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor


ALASKA'S Reynel Hugnatan harasses Purefoods' Richard Yee in the game placed under protest by the Aces. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

TNT, Magnolia try to keep tie for second spot

By Musong R. Castillo

ROCK-SOLID TALK 'N TEXT AND MAGNOlia try to keep their share of second place when they clash against separate foes today at the close of their respective first-round stints in the Smart PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Phone Pals slug it out with Air21 in the 4:35 p.m. contest before the Beverage Masters tangle with formidable Red Bull at 7:20.

Both squads, lying three games behind solo leader Purefoods with 5-3 slates, will be coming off convincing victories and are tipped as slight favorites over their foes.

The Phone Pals will ride the momentum of a 113-88 demolition job of Coca-Cola Sunday. That was the fourth straight time that Talk 'N Text defeated Coca-Cola this year.

Magnolia, on the other hand, tripped sister squad and defending champion Barangay Ginebra, 101-90, on the same day, and coach Siot Tanquingcen is obviously anxious to see his powerhouse squad play as one before the next phase starts next week.

Meanwhile, the league junked Alaska's protest of Purefoods' narrow 87-86 victory over the Aces Wednesday night.

Officer-in-charge Renauld "Sonny" Barrios, in a letter sent to Alaska team manager Joaqui Trillo, cited the lack of "a technical error on the part of game officials" and the "technical error (that) clearly altered the outcome of the game."

Alaska placed the game under protest, claiming there were two violations committed in the final 6.9 seconds which escaped the referees and resulted in the Aces' loss following a Rommel Adducul basket at the buzzer.

Brandon Cablay, Alaska cited in its protest, "rebounded" the ball in a jumpball situation with Sonny Thoss, an infraction which Barrios said was caused by an error on the part of the referee, who made a bad toss and called for the re-jump.

The second violation, the travel by Kerby Raymundo who was able to find Adducul for the winning shot, did not happen "because Raymundo lost the ball because of contact with Sonny Thoss."

STANDINGS	W	L
Purefoods	8	1
Talk 'N Text	5	3
Magnolia	5	3
Red Bull	4	3
Sta. Lucia	4	4
Alaska	4	4
Air21	3	4
Welcoat	3	5
Ginebra	2	6
Coca-Cola	1	6

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:35 p.m.—Air21 vs Talk 'N Text
7:20 p.m.—Magnolia vs Red Bull

Key UST-SSC V-League duel up

THE TIGRESSES in fine form against the Lady Falcons. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

IT WILL BE WAR AT THE ARENA today when University of Santo Tomas and San Sebastian College collide in their bid to move closer to an automatic finals berth of the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference.

The Tigresses and the Lady Stags, tied for the lead at 8-1, are expected to go all out in their 5 p.m. tiff in the penultimate semifinal playdate to avoid a possible playoff for the second finals slot.

However, the winner is not yet assured of the first finals seat as another deadlock looms depending on the results of Sunday's schedule.

In case of another tie between UST and San Sebastian, the won-set ratio would be applied. As of Tuesday's matches, the Tigresses are ahead by one won-set, 26 to 25.

On Sunday, the Tigresses will meet the Ateneo Lady Eagles, who inflicted their only loss so far.

On the other hand, the Lady Stags have a lighter opponent in the De La Salle Lady Archers who are already out of the running.

The Lady Eagles, desperately need to win that match to qualify for the 3-of-4 incentive which awards a playoff berth for the second finals seat to the team that wins three out of its four semifinal games.

If the Tigresses beat the Lady Eagles, Ateneo bows out of contention and paves the way for another UST-San Sebastian championship.

UST won the first conference finals via a 2-0 sweep, handing the Recto-based squad its second consecutive runner-up finish.

The Tigresses won during their elimination round meeting on Nov. 12, 21-25, 25-19, 25-9, 25-16, to snap the Lady Stags' five-game winning run.

Based on statistics, the Lady Stags are the best attackers, receivers, servers and setters in the eight-team tournament. *Romina S. Austria*

Que best Pinoy after 1st round on 2-under 70

HANOI—ANGELO QUE, WHO WON HIS breakthrough tournament in this land in 2004, gave himself a chance of duplicating the feat Thursday.

The Carlsberg Vietnam champion Que fired a two-under-par 70 on a four-birdie, two-bogey round at the Hanoi Phoenix Golf Resort to stay within four strokes behind Martin Rominger of Switzerland in the first round of the inaugural $500,000 Vietnam Masters.

Mars Pucay was the second-best scorer among the five Filipinos in the field as he matched par 72 while Iskandar Johor Open champion Artemio Murakami and Marlon Dizon carded 73s. Jerome Delariarte had a 74 and needs a big round to make Friday's halfway cut.

Rominger shot a 66 to grab a one-stroke lead over Taiwanese Lin Weng-hong.

Nine players players failed to finish the round due to darkness and will complete their first 18 holes early Friday.

Among the stranded players was Simon Griffiths of England who was four under with three holes to play. Six others were already in the clubhouse also at four under, among them Malaysia's Iain Steel and Korea's Mo Joong-kyung.

Asian Tour News

SPORTSWATCH

Kimoni badminton finale tourney dangles P1 million

A WHOPPING PRIZE POT OF P1 MILLION in cash and merchandize are at stake in the final tournament of the Kimoni Badminton Tour 2007 tomorrow and Sunday at the Yonex Badminton Court on Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City.

Championships will be disputed in the men's, ladies and mixed doubles by club players 21 years and older, as well as in the 20-and-under and 15-and-under categories.

Players from Ilocos Sur, Cabanatuan City, Laguna, Cavite, Mindoro, Davao, Iloilo and Palawan will slug it out with their Metro Manila counterparts for top honors.

Teody Villaflor of Match Control supervises the leveling of the tournament which follows the tour's third anniversary competition in July that drew over 1,300 players.

Pasay's 'Mushalo' derby on

MORE THAN 100 FIGHTS ARE ON TAP in the P300,000 "Mushalo Sa Pasay" 2-cock derby starting at 10 a.m. today at the Pasay City Cockpit.

Backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, today's event has an entry fee of P3,300, according to pit manager Butchoy Olano, the derby host. He said free breakfast will be served to handlers and gaffers.

Participants who will score 2 points will share in the P150,000 champions' prize.

The fastest-win champion will receive P20,000; second and third, P15,000; fourth to seventh, P5,000. A jackpot prize of P50,000 awaits the eight placer.

For inquiries: 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Malaysians, Indonesians see action as NBC Cup gets going

TAGAYTAY CITY—MALAYSIA'S NATIONAL Basketball League Selection and Indonesia Basketball League's Stadium five strut their wares against separate rivals today at the start of the 2007 Tagaytay-NBC International Invitational Cup tournament at the Tolentino Sports Center here.

The Malaysians, fresh from their golden triumph in the recent Johor Invitational, go up against the MVP Pacman-Gensan Warriors at 2 p.m. while the Indons square off with Tagaytay-Spring Cooking Oil at 4 p.m.

Two other local teams—Mayor Sammy Co's Pagadian Explorers and Armando Quibod's Montana Pawnshop-Davao—will compete in the two-group tournament.

"After three foreign stints, it's now NBC's turn to host our friendly rivals," said Tagaytay Mayor and NBC executive vice president Bambol Tolentino. "We expect to have a lively, exciting basketball week."

The Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Mayor Tolentino hope to improve their second-place finish in the Johor tourney.

"The boys are in top shape," said Padilla and Tolentino. "We have established good ties with our neighboring countries."

Highlighting today's 1:30 p.m. opening ceremony is a performance by the Tagaytay City Science Dance Troupe.

The Malaysians will be bracketed with Pagadian and MP Pacman-Gensan in Group A, while the Indons will be in Group B with Tagaytay-Spring and Montana Pawnshop.

The top two team will advance to the semifinals, with the winners of two knockout matches disputing the title.

Gabe gives best ...

From page A29

The two leaders, along with San Mig Coffee, will clash in no-bearing games in Pool A, while the bottom teams will meet in round-robin games in Pool B to battle for the last three quarterfinal seats.

Reed Juntilla, Mark Borboran and Alfie Grijaldo also delivered double-figure performances as the Complete Protectors coasted with 25 points for a 90-68 lead.

Kelvin dela Peña and Al Magpayo buried clutch baskets for the Coffee Kings, who clinched the third spot due to a superior quotient after finishing tied at 3-4 with Toyota Balintawak and Mail and More.

Magpayo shot eight of his 13 markers in the final period to lead the Coffee Kings to a 68-64 advantage, from 58-58, heading into the final minute.

Dela Peña, the reigning NCAA Most Valuable Player, also fired a key triple to cushion the lead at 71-65 with 17.3 seconds left.

"There was pressure, we cannot deny that; I'm just glad the boys stepped up," said coach Koy Banal after the Coffee Kings halted a three-game slide.

The scores:
First Game

SAN MIG 73—Dela Peña 16, Custodio 14, Magpayo 13, Rañeses 12, Saldua 8, Pascual 4, Del Rosario 4, Luanzon 2, Dalafu 0, Bolocon 0, Arao 0, Angeles 0.

BACCHUS 65—Cagoco 15, Guevarra 12, Llagas 12, Raymundo 6, Fampulme 5, Thiele 5, Viardo 4, Mendoza 4, Martinez 2, Mondragon 0, Williams 0.

Quarters: 14-20, 35-39, 51-52, 73-65

Second Game

HAPEE 103—Norwood 24, Juntilla 18, Borboran 13, Grijaldo 13, Rodriguez 9, Viray 7, Mercado 6, Hugnatan 6, Espiritu 4, Daa 2, Saguindel 1, Quinday 0.

PHAREX 80—Matias 23, Co 17, Allera 13, Alfad 11, Genila 4, De Guzman 4, Oreta 4, Bulaan 2, Burtscher 2, Aquino 0, Soriano 0.

Quarters: 35-25, 49-40, 75-64, 103-80

RACING TIPS
BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Northstorm (2), Win Lane (5), Acuris (4)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Naglalabyog (8), Cheska Run (6), Goldsphere (5), Take Ten (7), Amazing Pace (2)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Money Bank (7), My Special Moment (5), Sir Barbaro (3), Mr. Godfather (4)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Sports Illustrated (6), Royal Lad Jane (1), Alexia Magic (3), Phil's Game (5)
Race 5—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Pearl Buck (9), Lord Bria (4), Virgin Island (8), Fanciful/Carmelita (10) King's Treasure (5), Mr. Diego (6)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Bush Carnival (4), Materia World (7), Hazmagic (5), Crowning Glory (1), O The Fairway (3)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—El Love Senora (2), Wynn Connection (6), Princess Ther Ther (7), Winne Take All (1), Distinctive Dancer (8)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Chance For Us (2), Princess C Aachen (4), Windlass (1), Magical Street (5)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Fair Urduja (6), Kapit Ba hay (9), Gold Collar (2), Sea Of Galilee (10 Lakambini (1), Little Sam (7)

Meza braces for tough Boom Boom showdown

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

MEZA: In peak form

MEXICAN ANTONIO MEZA KNOWS what's at stake when he faces Filipino Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista at the Araneta Coliseum on Dec. 2, and has prepared himself for the tough grind in Mexico City under former world champion Edgar Cardenas.

The southpaw Meza, also known as "Barrio," says he is now in peak form.

"I cannot fail," Meza told the boxing website Boxnoticias. "I am going to bring to the Philippines the arsenal that I have. I know that it will be a difficult fight and that I should look for a knockout.

"I am very conscientious in training for this fight, which I know should be very tough because Boom Boom is everybody's idol in the Philippines."

The 25-year-old Meza (23-3, 16 KOs) hails from Mexicali, although he was born in Sonora province.

The Bautista-Meza bout headlines the eight-fight extravaganza dubbed "Payback," which is being promoted by Third Force Promotions.

As a bonus to ticket buyers, organizers said they would also show, right before the main event, Nonito Donaire's title defense in Connecticut on the same day via closed-circuit TV inside the Big Dome.

Solar Sports' William Tieng and ABC 5's Tony Boy Cojuangco firmed up the deal.

"This just goes to show how true sportsmen can work together ... to help Filipino boxers and give the best to Pinoy sports fans," said Third Force promoter Noli Eala. "I'm sure the fans will have a wonderful time watching Boom Boom, AJ (Banal), and now Donaire in one venue."

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COMMENTARY

Say it ain't so, Joe

By Percy D. Della

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA—SANAmagan.

Pardon me for borrowing the late Manong Max Soliven's trademark barb.

Can't help it when the father of the Philippine Olympic sports family, who is supposed to treat the children equally, drops his guard and reveals he has a favorite.

And it is none other than the spoiled brat.

You'll get steamed, too, if you are a fan of sports other than basketball.

You'd scream Manong Max's remark at the top of your lungs. Get hot under the collar if you happen to work for a national sports association (NSA) other than the much-favored, wealthy, independent republic of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas.

Here you are, busting your butts preparing your athletes to help defend the overall title in the Southeast Asian Games in December. Then all of a sudden, Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, drops a bombshell.

Retaining the Southeast Asian region's sports bragging rights in Bangkok this year, says our exalted Olympic sports leader would be hollow—nothing, empty, *nada*.

If we don't win the basketball gold.

Filipinos just love basketball so much—he ponders deeply—so we cannot afford to lose in this sport. We can lose in any other sport, but not in basketball.

Sanamagan.

Say it ain't so, Joe. We expected better from you.

Your famous words could be your famous last words among the restless NSAs whose not-so-secret desire is to wring basketball's neck for relegating them to the fringes of Philippine sports.

Your famous words just sent the morale plunging for the other athletes covetous of cage fortunes. Worse, you may have even forced their benefactors to beat a hasty retreat as the days to the SEA Games trickle to a precious few.

Say it ain't so, Joe. The people whose NSAs you have advertently, or inadvertently, slammed will be around the table next year when someone is plucked from semi-obscurity into a position of national preeminence as POC president.

Unless you expect someone other than yourself to be the democratically chosen nominee for that post, now is the time to mend fences with the siblings.

Say it ain't so Joe. Only the politics of basketball could make you utter something this foolish.

Basketball holds an unbelievable sway on the poor, to the detriment of barangay level sports development.

Why? Because of statements like yours.

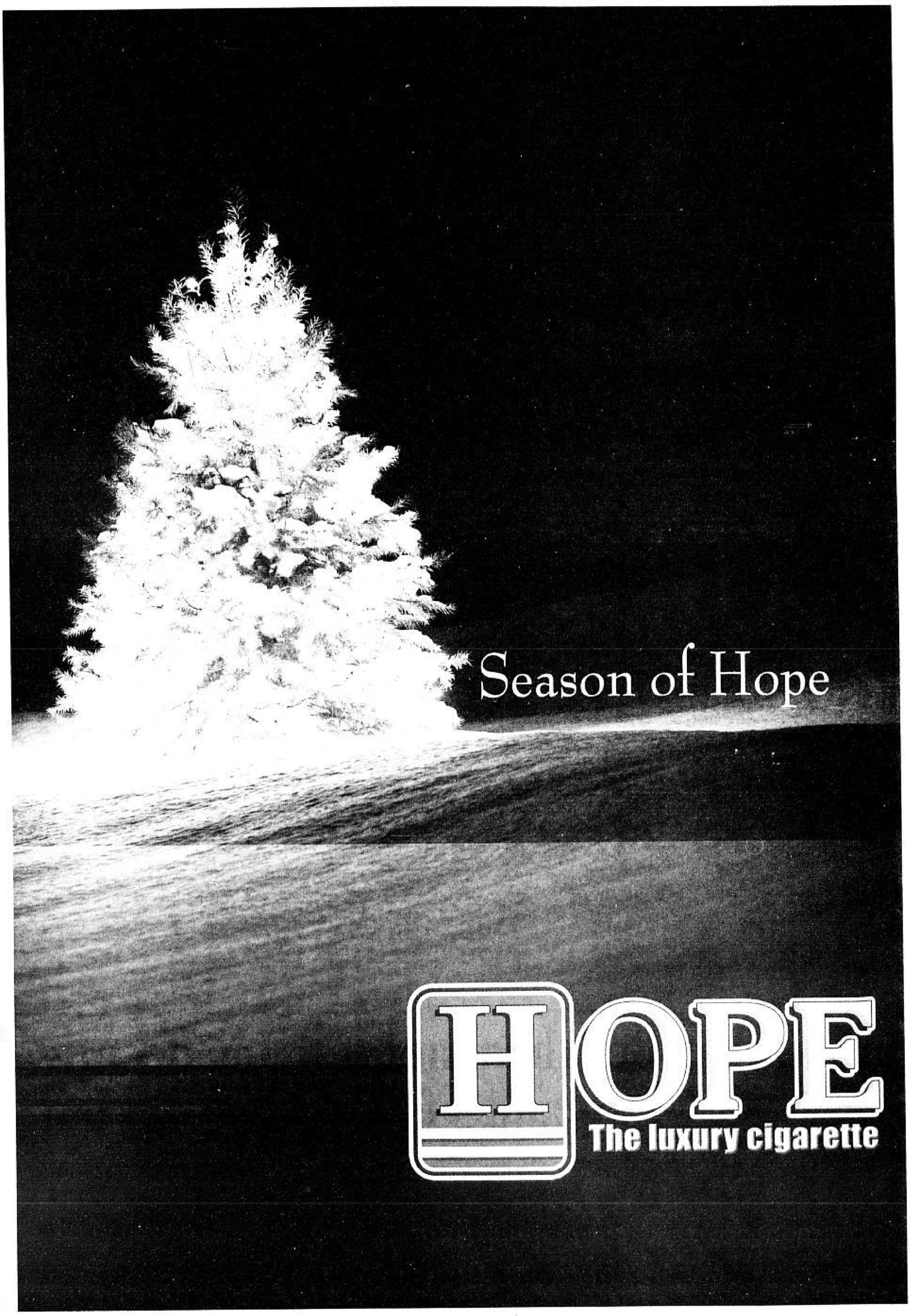
Joe, a wiser politician might wonder whether sticking your neck for a sport that has single-handedly turned the nation's athletic landscape into ground zero breeds potential adversaries and inspires them to revenge.

To be one-dimensional does not cut it.

Say it ain't so, Joe. 2008 is just around the bend.

* * *

***Sports Note:** Condolences to one of my bosom buddies, Willie Hernandez, of the Natomas area in Sacramento, whose mom died in Barangay Buttong, Laoag City, last week. Interment is at the Laoag City cemetery when Willie and his siblings arrive from the United States.*



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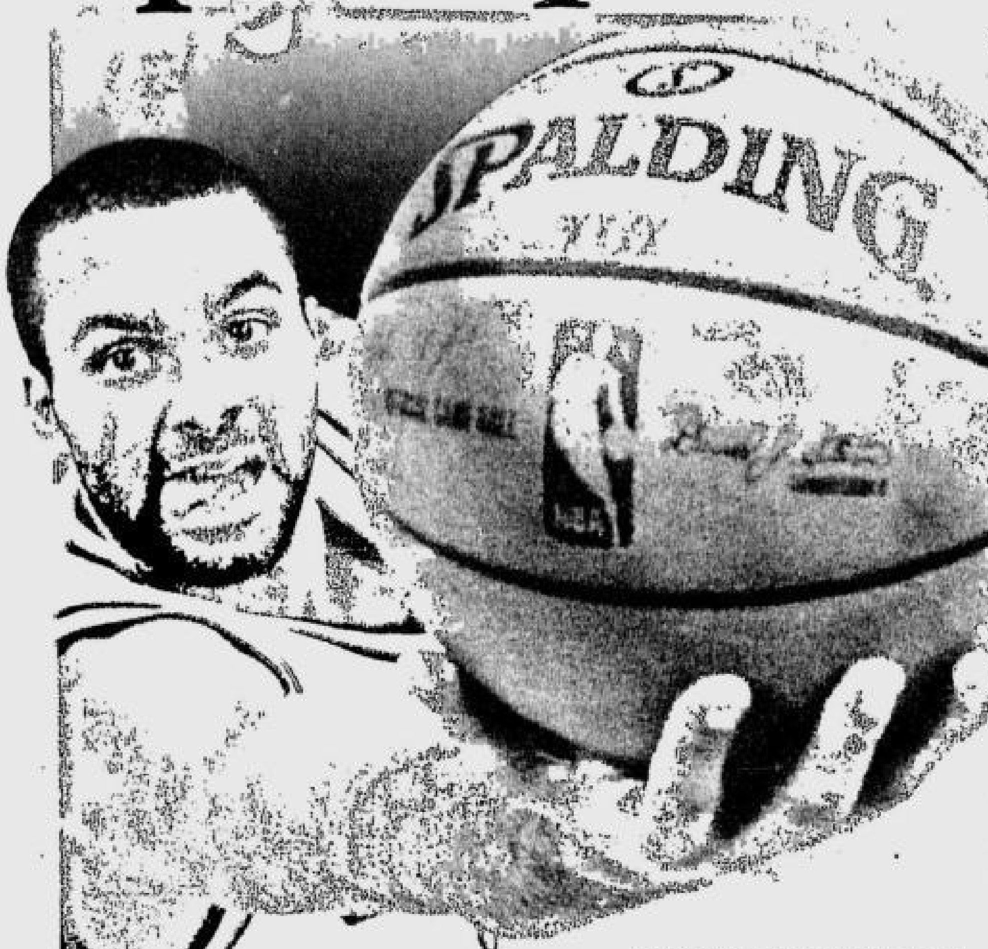
Spurs put end to Magic's spell



SAN ANTONIO Spurs guard Tony Parker, driving to the basket in a third quarter play, scores a season-high 32 points against the Orlando Magic. AP

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS—FRENCH guard Tony Parker scored a season-high 32 points and Tim Duncan added 20 points and 16 rebounds to power the defending champion San Antonio Spurs past Orlando 128-110, here Wednesday.

San Antonio, unbeaten at home this season, rallied to snap the Magic's run as the lone remaining National Basketball Association team undefeated away from home after a 7-0 road start.

Orlando center Dwight Howard scored 19 of his 34 points and grabbed 12 of his 16 rebounds in the first half to spark the Magic to a 64-59 half-time edge. For the game, Howard connected on 14-of-19 shots from the field.

But after the Magic grabbed their biggest lead at 67-59 to open the second half, the Spurs answered with a 25-14 run over the next nine minutes, Duncan and Parker combining for the last 13 points in a run that put San Antonio ahead, 84-81.

The Spurs kept the Magic scoreless for four minutes and 15 seconds in the middle of the fourth quarter, stretching a 99-95 edge into a 107-95 bulge with Michael Finley and Brent Barry concluding the run by each hitting a three-pointer.

Argentina's Manu Ginobili scored 27 points for the Spurs and Barry sank five three-pointers on his way to a season-high 19 points for the Spurs, who shot 13-of-24 from beyond the 3-point the arc and improved to 10-2 on the season.

Turkey's Hedo Turkoglu scored a season-high 26 for Orlando and added five assists.

Jameer Nelson scored 15 for the Magic, who fell to 10-3 after their five-game win streak ended.

Celtics 105, Warriors 82

At Boston, Ray Allen scored 21 points and Boston beat Golden State to record a sixth straight home victory.

Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett both had double-doubles for the Celtics, which improved to 9-1 overall and have won their six home games by an average of 22 points. Garnett had 20 points and 10 rebounds, while Pierce added 19 points and 10 boards.

Pistons 98, Knicks 86

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Chauncey Billups had season highs with 25 points and 15 assists, directing Detroit over slumping New York.

New York has lost eight straight, the NBA's longest losing streak this season and speculation is growing that coach Isiah Thomas' job may be in jeopardy.

Cavaliers 97, Timberwolves 86

At Minneapolis, LeBron James had 45 points, eight rebounds and five assists to carry Cleveland over Minnesota.

Despite playing the second game of a back-to-back, James topped 40 points for the second time in the past three games.

Minnesota fell to 1-8.

Wizards 114, Bobcats 111, OT

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Caron Butler helped make up for the loss of leading scorer Gilbert Arenas at least for a night, scoring 39 points to lead Washington over Charlotte in overtime.

With the Wizards receiving the jolting news that their star will be out for about three months after Arenas underwent knee surgery earlier in the day, Butler scored seven points in overtime, including two free throws with 15.5 seconds left to give Washington a three-point lead.

Washington continued its turnaround from an 0-5 start.

Mavericks 100, Rockets 94

At Houston, Devin Harris scored 22 points and converted a key three-point play in the closing minutes, and Dallas rallied from a double-digit deficit for the second straight game. *AP, AFP*

OTHER RESULTS: Hawks 82, Heat 79; Bucks 110, Lakers 103; Pacers 105, Hornets 93; Raptors 95, Grizzlies 89; Nets 106, Trail Blazers 101; Clippers 101, Nuggets 90.

Miñoza rates highly in Volvo Masters

BANGKOK—THE EVERGREEN FRANKIE MIÑOZA of the Philippines is eager to go one better than last year and win the end-of-season Volvo Masters of Asia next month.

Miñoza finished second to local hero Thongchai Jaidee at the Thai Country Club last year after a thrilling final-day tussle.

The 48-year-old Miñoza, a former Asian No. 1 and regular winner on the Japan Tour, carried over that form into the 2007 season with an emotional home victory in the Philippine Open in February and runner-up spot at the Indonesia Open a fortnight later.

Those results took Miñoza to the top of the Asian Tour's UBS Order of Merit with $147,156. He is currently placed 17th after spending most of the season playing on the Japan Tour.

Keeping himself busy, Miñoza rejoined the Japan Tour and shot a one-over 73 at the start of the $1.3 million Casio World Open at the Kochi Kuroshio Country Club in Koshi Thursday.

Frankie was in a 10-way tie for 17th place, four strokes behind a four-way deadlock for top spot among Japan's Toru Taniguchi, Taichi Teshima and Tateo Ozaki and Korean I. J. Chang.

Good start

Miñoza will go into the $750,000 Volvo Masters of Asia on a high after his recent victory at the ABC Championship on the Japan Golf Tour. That was his seventh triumph in Japan and took his career tally to 16 victories.

"It has been a great season for me," said Miñoza. "After I won the Philippine Open my dream was to win two tournaments in one year before I reached 50 years old—and I did it.

"That was a dream come true but I still have time to win a third tournament at the Volvo Masters of Asia."

The Volvo Masters of Asia at Thai Country Club from Dec. 6-9 will be Miñoza's eighth tournament on the trot but he believes his passion for the game will keep him firing on all cylinders.

"I still have a passion for the game and a love for winning. I have to work hard at the gym to keep up with all the young lads on the circuit," said Miñoza, who commands huge respect on the Asian and Japan Tours.

"I will be a little bit tired (in Thailand) as it will be my eighth tournament in a row but I have to do it. I have a chance for another win before the end of the year."

Tough Thai course

Miñoza is itching to reacquaint himself with the demanding Thai Country Club layout in the finale to the Asian Tour.

"I really like Thai Country Club," he said. "It is a long and tough course, you need to hit the ball good and putt well. I will have a good feeling going back and I hope to play well again and possibly win."

The top 60 players on the Asian Tour's UBS Order of Merit after the Cambodian Open will be eligible to compete in the Volvo Masters of Asia which is being played at the magnificent Thai Country Club for the third successive year.

Asian Tour News

FRANKIE MIñoza is looking at a Volvo Masters Asia victory after finishing second behind Thai Thongchai Jaidee last year. INQUIRER PHOTO

Japan, Korea, hurdle rivals, earn Beijing football slots

SYDNEY—ASIAN POWERHOUSES JAPAN and South Korea will be joined by regional newcomers Australia at the Beijing Olympics football competition next year after coming through Wednesday's final qualifying round.

They join host China, who qualified automatically, as Asia's four representatives at next August's showpiece event.

Japan qualified for their fourth straight Olympic Games finals with a scoreless draw against Saudi Arabia in Tokyo to clinch top spot in Group C.

Another 0-0 draw with Bahrain in Seoul was enough for South Korea to book a sixth consecutive place for the Olympics.

Australia, qualifying through Asia for the first time for an Olympic tournament, equalized 20 minutes from time for a 1-1 draw in Group A with North Korea in Pyongyang.

Japan finished two points ahead of the Saudis on 11 points and will be in Beijing after appearances at the 1996, 2000 and 2004 Olympics.

The Saudis had been hoping to reach the finals of the Olympic football tournament for the first time since 1996, while Japan only needed a point to go through.

"We couldn't play our game because of the Saudi attacks, but I was able to accomplish my mission," Japan Olympic coach Yasuharu Sorimachi said.

"The national coach (Ivica Osim who suffered a stroke last week) has been worrying about the result, so I feel relieved that I can report a good result to him.

"We must improve our game further before the Beijing Olympics," he added.

The Koreans went through on the back of their third consecutive goalless stalemate in the final qualifying round and finished on top of Group B with four goals from six matches.

Australia came up with their own version of the "Hand of God" to rescue them.

A 70th-minute header officially credited to skipper Mark Milligan—but which television replays showed may have been helped over the line by teammate Adrian Leijer's arm—secured Australia a draw against North Korea. *AFP*

Pelé jersey auctioned for $137,000

LONDON—A YELLOW BRAZIL FOOTBALL shirt worn by Pelé during the 1970 World Cup final has been sold for 66,500 pounds ($137,100) at auction in London, Christie's said Wednesday.

The shirt was the most expensive sale in an auction of memorabilia belonging to former England captain Bobby Moore and Brazil's Mario Zagallo, who was national team manager in 1970 when his side won.

The buyer Tuesday was anonymous and the shirt had carried an estimate of up to 80,000 pounds.

Other eye-catching lots included a shirt worn by Zagallo when he played in the 1962 World Cup final, which far exceeded its price tag, selling for 18,500 pounds from an estimate of up to 12,000 pounds.

Zagallo was part of the first Brazilian team to win the World Cup in 1958 and was again in the side when they retained the trophy four years later. *AFP*

Beckham not retiring despite England's failed Euro '08 bid

DAVID Beckham applauds Croatia's 3-2 win in the Group E Euro 2008 qualifying game. AFP

WEMBLEY, ENGLAND—WITH ENGLAND 2-0 down against Croatia, it took David Beckham's arrival in the second half to rally a despondent side and get the jeering fans cheering again.

He sent the ball in for Peter Crouch's equalizing goal and, at 2-2, it was enough for a European Championship berth.

Then the Croats stunned just about everyone in Wembley with a 77th-minute winner.

England will be staying home next June, and Beckham will be staying with the Los Angeles Galaxy.

"We just didn't perform tonight and that's the end of it," Beckham said after the 3-2 defeat. "We've felt we'd been given that second chance and you have to take them when they're given to you."

England's campaign would have ended on Saturday, but Israel and Macedonia shocked Russia and Croatia, respectively. That gave Steve McClaren's team two lifelines, which it squandered.

McClaren dropped Beckham from the starting lineup to utilize the speed of Shaun Wright-Phillips. But the Chelsea midfielder was shackled by the confident Croats, who already had sealed a place at the 2008 Euros in Austria and Switzerland.

So in a change at halftime, Beckham made his 99th appearance in an England jersey.

It paid off. In the 65th minute, he floated a cross to Crouch, who was able to bring the ball down with his chest before volleying into the net.

The former captain worked tirelessly down the right flank, storming forward to whip balls in the box and scrambling back to bolster the shaky back four on defense.

But Mladen Petric's winner ended Beckham's hopes of playing in a sixth major tournament and reaching the landmark 100 caps. *AP*

Tyson free after one-day term

PHOENIX—MIKE TYSON ATE SLOPPY JOES and read the mobster epic "American Gangster" during his 24-hour jail term for a DUI conviction.

The former heavyweight champion was released Wednesday morning, sheriff's officials said. Tyson was held apart from the 1,500 other inmates and in a secluded part of Tent City, an open-air jail.

The 41-year-old boxer had faced four years, three months in prison. He pleaded guilty Sept. 24 to one count of felony cocaine possession and one misdemeanor count of driving under the influence. The charges stem from his arrest last year after leaving a Scottsdale club.

Police said they saw Tyson brush a white powder off his dashboard, and they found baggies of cocaine in his pockets and in his car. *AP*

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STILL IN THE GROOVE: Juvic Pagunsan nails 2nd win.

Pagunsan coasts to 5-shot victory

By Musong R. Castillo

JUVIC PAGUNSAN DIDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM SEALING HIS SECond professional victory on home soil, shooting a three-under-par 65 yesterday to bag the P1-million PGAP Challenge at the muddy and tight Camp Aguinaldo layout.

Pagunsan was never threatened by anyone in the elite 30-man field that made the final cut and coasted home to a five-shot victory over former Philippine Open winner Cassius Casas and the long-hitting Elmer Salvador with a 54-hole 194 total.

Casas matched Pagunsan's 65 and caught Salvador in second spot at 199, four strokes ahead of joint fourth placers Rey Pagunsan, Randy Garalde and first-round leader Orlan Sumcad.

Sumcad, who shot a first-round 63, turned in a 71; Garalde, a teaching pro from Valley in Antipolo, matched par 68; while Rey Pagunsan rallied with a 66.

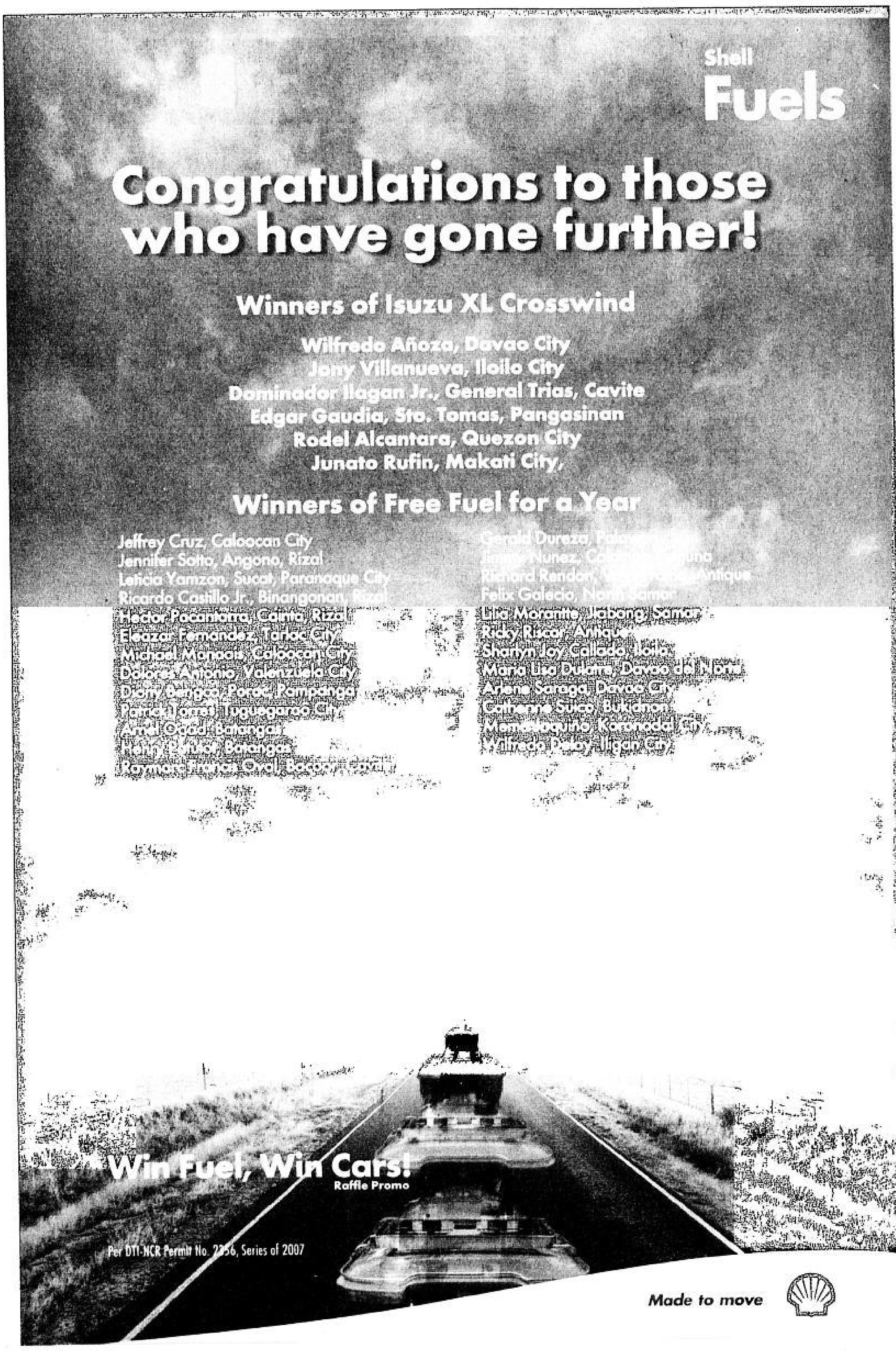
"I'm hitting the ball well and putting well," said Pagunsan, who won a second tournament in three weeks after breaking through in Indonesia in the Asian Tour.

And it marks his first win in the country since his maiden professional win at The Country Club Invitational in Laguna two years ago, when he nipped Frankie Miñoza in a gut-wrenching playoff.

Yesterday's win was worth P300,000 for Pagunsan, who received his prize from main sponsors Kim Yung-ho and Kim Koosik, Camp Aguinaldo GM Col. Reynaldo Ochosa and PGAP president Jun Bustamante.

Pagunsan had earlier rounds of 66-63, justifying his tag as the man to beat in the 105-man field.

Louie Dacudao posted his best finish as a pro, tying Erwin Arcillas (69) and Ibarra Quiachon (70) for seventh place with 204 after a 65.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Jennifer Sotto, Angono, Rizal
Leticia Yamzon, Sucat, Paranaque City
Ricardo Castillo Jr., Binangonan, Rizal
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Arnel Odad, Batangas
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Gerald Dureza, [illegible]
Jimmy Nunez, [illegible] Laguna
Richard Rendon, [illegible] Antique
Felix Galecio, North Samar
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Made to move

Lascuña, Rosales 6 adrift despite a 67

SHENZHEN, CHINA—FILIPINOS Tony Lascuña and Gerald Rosales acquitted themselves well with a five-under-par 67 only to find themselves near the tailend in the face of torrid scoring in the first round of the World Cup of Golf at the Mission Hills Golf Club here.

After assembling nines of 33-34 in the fourballs (better ball) format, Lascuña and Rosales finished in a four-way tie for 23rd place with the crack teams from Spain, Japan and New Zealand.

Showing the way for the exclusive 28-team field was the unheralded United States pair of Heath Slocum and Boo Weekley, who turned in an 11-under-par 61.

Germany's Alex Cejka and Martin Kaymer came next with a 62.

Thongchai Jaidee and Prayad Marksaeng of Thailand fired a 63 to join a six-way tie for third that included favorites Retief Goosen and Trevor Immelman of South Africa and England's Justin Rose and Ian Poulter.

Bell ties Manotoc; RP 1 behind Korea

TOMMY MANOTOC STUMBLED with a three-over-par 75 yesterday and dropped into a tie for the lead with a charging Bill Bell of New Zealand after the second round of the 2007 Asia-Pacific Senior Amateur Golf Championship at Mt. Malarayat in Lipa City.

Manotoc, the leader by two shots overnight with a 72, never recovered from a three-over card at the front, nailing just one birdie against a bogey at the back for a 39-36 card.

Bell, who also had 147 after 36 of the 54-hole championship, could have forged ahead but for back-to-back bogeys from No. 16.

Four down after 18 holes, Bell tied the 57-year-old Filipino shotmaker with a birdie on No. 14 then gained a two-shot swing on the par-3 15th. But the Kiwi dropped two strokes on the next two holes, enabling Manotoc to regain a share of the lead.

RP Team I blew a three-shot edge in team competition despite Iggy Clavecilla's 74 as Korea sizzled with a 145 on Lee Jun-kee's 72 and Park Young-eung 73 to surge ahead with a 295 total.

The hosts slid to second with a 149 for 296 in the tournament conducted by the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

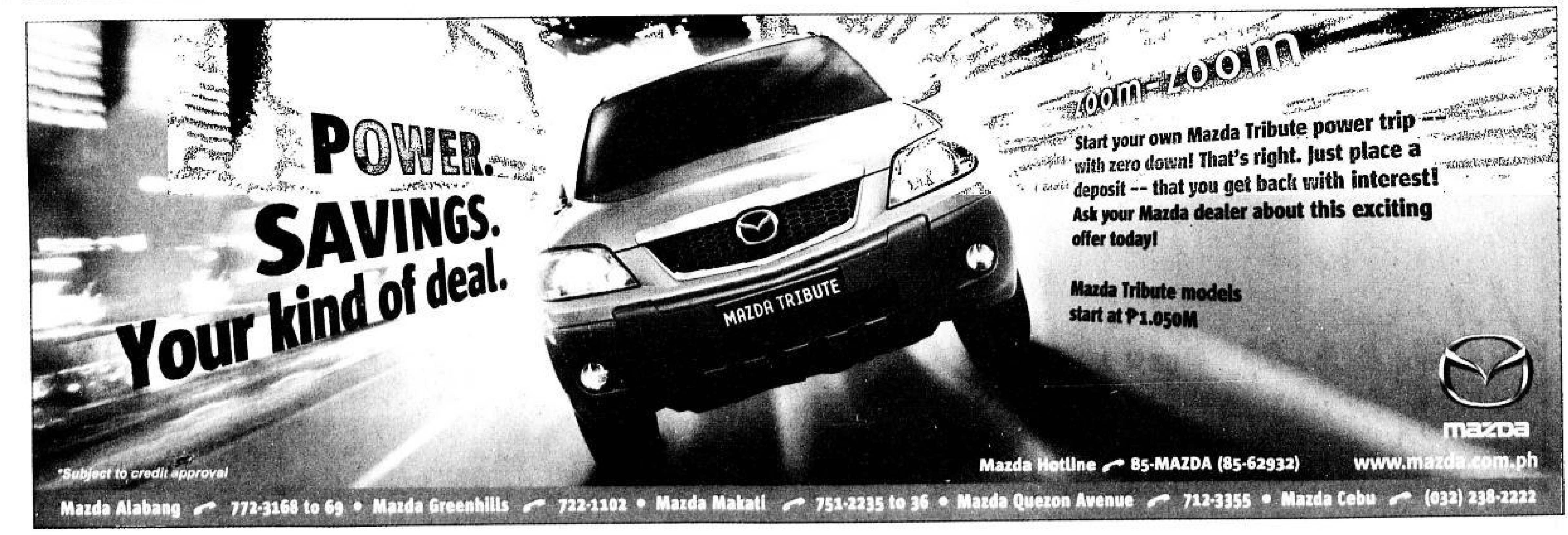
Sev-Roxas Chua failed to count again for RP Team I with a 78.

Lee and Park also shared third place in individual play with 148s even as Iggy Clavecilla tied last year's champ Rodney Baltrop (75) of Australia in fifth spot at 149.

RP Team 2 improved from sixth to fifth with 152 and a 308 total, seven shots off the pace, as Rolly Viray rebounded with a 75 after an 80 and Francis Gaston carded a second 77.

Australia I also pooled a 149 for third at 299 while New Zealand had a 302 after a 150 as Bell failed to draw solid support from David Headland, who had a 79.

Phil Cleland didn't count with an 83.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Solons question PNOC-EDC bid

Teves to be placed on hot seat over 'illegal' sale

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Michelle V. Remo and Abigail L. Ho

THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL POWER COMMISSION (JCPC) has summoned Finance Secretary Margarito Teves to appear next week and explain what it reckoned as the illegal sale of government's 60-percent stake in Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Development Corp.

In an interview with reporters, JCPC co-chair Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said she and her peers were "extremely upset" that Teves, as head of the Privatization Council, had approved the sale of PNOC-EDC even after the JCPC had declared that it did not want the state-owned oil exploration arm auctioned off.

"Under the Epira law, (PNOC-EDC) is the only entity in the government mandated to explore and develop indigenous sources of energy," Santiago said. "So in our view, the sale, if it proceeds, will be a violation of Epira. It would therefore be illegal and, in that sense, might be a ground for action before our courts."

The national government stands to gain P47 billion from the P58.5-billion sale of its stake in PNOC-EDC.

The balance is supposed to go to the mother company, PNOC, which will shoulder sale-related costs, including payment of the financial adviser.

What the government is supposed to earn from the sale is bigger than the original projection of between P32 billion and P36 billion. Finance officials said this was because the bidding turned out to be competitive and the winning bid price was higher than expected.

A joint venture led by power producer First Gen submitted the highest bid for the PNOC-EDC stake at P58.5 billion during last Wednesday's auction.

Santiago also scored Teves for prioritizing the sale of cash cows

SOLONS/ B8

RP may sustain growth beyond 2007

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES can sustain a domestic economic growth of 7 percent beyond 2007 and may even catch up with its fast growing Asian neighbors once the government addresses infrastructure bottlenecks and "brain drain" issues, according to a top Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas official.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo told reporters that the country is now in the best position to move to a higher growth trajectory and prove to the world that its impressive performance in the first semester was no fluke.

In the past few years, the Philippines' growth path was locked within a 5-6 percent range. But the country's gross domestic product (GDP) grew to 7.3 percent in the first half of 2007, the highest among the middle-income countries of Southeast Asia.

It was the country's strongest performance in 20 years.

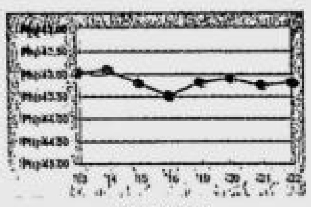
"Right now, our macroeconomic fundamentals are generally sound," he said. "Growth is good, inflation is down, external payment position is posting historical highs ... we are able to accumulate reserves, and the financial sector is improving significantly."

He also said that the fiscal sector, notwithstanding the issue of privatization and tax administration, "has been doing quite well."

RP MAY/ B8

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



NOVEMBER

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₱43.19 = $1

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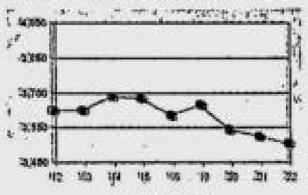
STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.9% lower

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



NOVEMBER

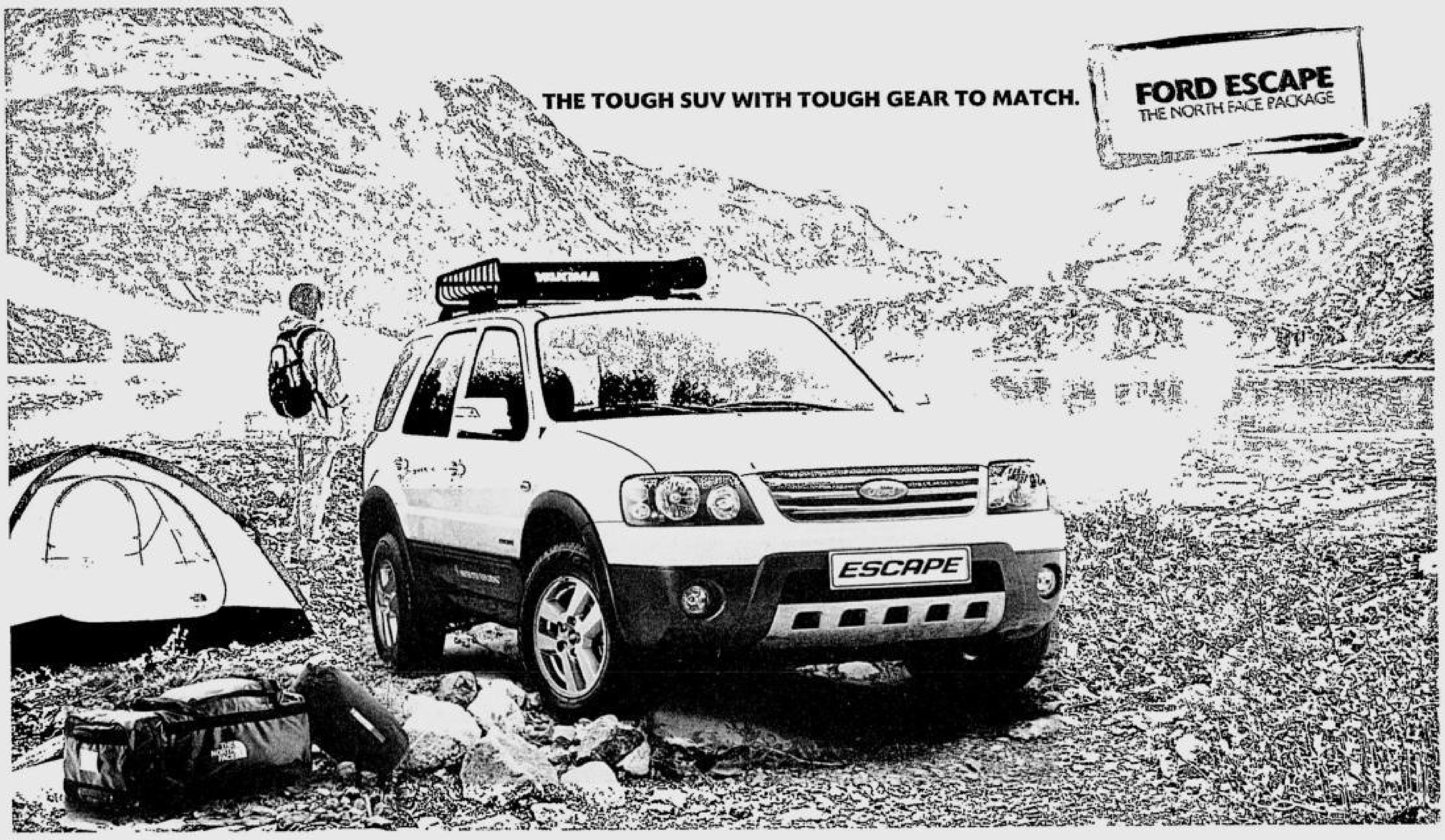
SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.9 percent lower due to the extended slide on Wall Street and soaring oil prices, dealers said.

They said the market was in negative territory throughout the session, but some bouts of bargain-hunting in smaller cap stocks helped pare down losses.

The composite index closed down 31.55 points to 3,478.94, off its low of 3,455.90.

Volume traded reached 1.7 billion shares worth P4.3 billion ($99.35 million). Decliners outnumbered gainers 72 to 35.

SHARES/ B8



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Gov't may cut spending due to fiscal slippage

Banker says new taxes may also be considered

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT fiscal slippage could again result in a slowdown in state spending or prompt fiscal officials to seek new taxes from Congress next year, a Deutsche Bank economist warned.

Deutsche Bank strategist Anton Periquet, in a commentary issued yesterday, said the government's fiscal report for October was "disappointing" after the initial improvement seen when a new revenue chief was appointed in the second quarter.

He said the national government revenue was again lagging gross domestic product (GDP) growth, rising by only 5 percent year-on-year in October.

Tax collections by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which accounts for almost two-thirds of the total government revenue, were up by only 2.8 percent while that of the Bureau of Customs even fell.

He said nominal GDP was growing by about 10 percent and with oil prices at record levels, the country's taxable import bill was rising.

The expanded value added tax, Periquet said, "appeared to have only bought the country some time, rather than a permanent way out of its fiscal woes."

"At the end of the day, the concern from a credit standpoint is what the picture might look like when the financial cycle turns and shuts the door on privatization income and cheap credit," he said.

The budget deficit in the first 10 months of the year declined to P41.5 billion from P56.3 billion a year ago due largely to privatization proceeds and interest payment savings. For the month of October alone, the government trimmed its deficit to P1.5 billion from P5.8 billion shortfall

GOV'T/ B5

CURRENCIES

November 22, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.673038	1.000000	43.2060
Japan	Yen	0.006208	0.009224	0.3985
United Kingdom	Pound	1.390699	2.066300	89.2766
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.086498	0.128518	5.5527
Switzerland	Franc	0.610798	0.907523	39.2104
Canada	Dollar	0.682525	1.014096	43.8150
Singapore	Dollar	0.463684	0.688942	29.7664
Australia	Dollar	0.585352	0.869716	37.5769
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.795487	2.667734	115.2621
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.181163	0.269172	11.6298
Brunei	Dollar	0.462092	0.686577	29.6642
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000071	0.000106	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.021469	0.031898	1.3782
UAE	Dirham	0.183359	0.272435	11.7708
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.485800	64.1955
Korea	Won	0.000725	0.001077	0.0465
China	Yuan**	0.090816	0.134935	5.8300
Denmark	Kroner	0.134184	0.199370	8.6140
India	Rupee	0.017130	0.025452	1.0997
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.199124	0.295858	12.7828
New Zealand	Dollar	0.505132	0.750525	32.4272
Sweden	Kroner	0.107363	0.159520	6.8922
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.020810	0.030920	1.3359

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Nov. 21, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Nov. 21, 2007

Filinvest still keen on doing power projects

By Abigail L. Ho

DESPITE LOSING ITS BID TO ACQUIRE the government's remaining 60-percent stake in PNOC-Energy Development Corp., real estate giant Filinvest Development Corp. is still bent on penetrating the energy sector.

FDC president Josephine Gotianun-Yap told reporters his company's attempt to gain control of PNOC-EDC was just its initial foray into the power industry.

"We're looking at diversification, and power is a good area," she said, adding that the company would look at other privatization opportunities.

Gotianun-Yap was referring to the ongoing auction of National Power Corp.'s generation assets.

However, the company has no plan yet of going into greenfield power projects.

FDC and partner International Power Masinloc Holdings Inc. lost their bid for the PNOC-EDC stake to the First Gen Corp.-led consortium Red Vulcan Holdings Corp.

Red Vulcan offered P58.5 billion as against FDC Geo-Energy's P48.5 billion. They were the only two groups that met the floor price of P45.08 billion set by the government for the 60-percent PNOC-EDC stake.

In an earlier interview, Gotianun-Yap said FDC, through subsidiary Filinvest Land Inc., would be concentrating on putting up more information technology buildings to meet growing demand for such facilities.

She added that locators at Filinvest Land's Northgate Cyberzone—which included HSBC, Convergys, eTelecare Global Solutions and GE subsidiary GenPact—were pleased with the quality of Filipino workers, indicating possible expansion projects in the future.

Skilled labor flight

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

LAST AUGUST, A COUNTRY WITH A RICH colonial history was hit by the highest long-term migration since it started counting the movement of its population 16 years ago.

Over the last 12-month period, some 385,000 of its people moved elsewhere in the world for social and economic reasons.

The outward human flow came on the heels of an upsurge in the country's aging population.

The decrease in the number of young or working-age people puts at serious risk that country's ability to provide adequate social services to its gray-haired citizens.

Does this scenario ring a bell to you? Chances are, you'll get the feeling that the country referred to is good old Philippines.

No, it's not. The country in question is the United Kingdom, or Britain as it is more popularly known.

The data, which was the subject of a news report by Agence France Press in August, came from Britain's Office for National Statistics.

If it's any consolation to the stiff-lipped subjects of Her Majesty, a similar problem besets Europe's largest and richest country, Germany.

Manpower

According to reports, the "exodus" affecting the two countries is traceable to the lure of high-paying jobs in other industrial or financial centers of the world.

So what else is new?

In this age of globalization, when economies are no longer limited by national borders, people go where money can be earned or where better livelihood opportunities are available.

A country that lacks warm bodies to meet the staffing requirements of a critical sector of its social or economic structure has the rest of the world to source its manpower needs.

For rich countries with large aging populations, and whose young people are averse to "messy" personal services, there are nurses and caregivers in the Philippines and Sri Lanka who can do the job for a lower price.

In need of laborers to construct the future playground of the ultra-rich in the Arab desert? There are thousands of men in Pakistan and Bangladesh who will sign up for the back-breaking work at near starvation rates.

Globalization has also taken its toll on the citizens of some developed countries.

Semiskilled workers of manufacturing companies in the United States are forced to go on welfare when their work is outsourced to factories in China that pay a pittance for 10-hours-a-day work.

Servitude

With the advances in telecommunications and computer technology, call center and medical transcription services in the US and other European countries have found their niche in the Philippines and India.

Undoubtedly, the "pull factor" has adversely affected the availability of qualified teachers, nurses, doctors, pilots and, of late, geologists in our country.

A number of businessmen have complained about the adverse effects of the outward migration to their operations and profitability.

We can't blame some professionals for seeking employment elsewhere in the world where their services are sought after and amply compensated.

That's the law of supply and demand. They have the skills that other countries need and are willing to pay for.

And they cannot be stopped from filling up that demand.

It's consoling though that many of our countrymen have resisted the lure of foreign employment. They prefer to "pay forward" right here the skills they learned from our educational system.

Banning select professionals from leaving until after they have worked in our country for a certain number of years may not be a good idea.

In the first place, the legality of that action is questionable. It smacks of involuntary servitude. Besides, there are a thousand and one ways to go around that restriction.

Proactive

Rather than complain and seek legislative remedy, our more civic-conscious businessmen have opted to give their employees stronger reasons to remain in the country than seek foreign employment.

An airline company increased the pay scale of its pilots to counteract the pouching activities of foreign airline operators.

A hospital makes available to its nurses advanced clinical courses, free of charge, in consideration for the nurses' promise to stay on the job for at least three years.

A design software company created a performance bonus system that gives additional pay to employees who are involved in projects that bring in a lot of money.

These companies know that their employees are their best resources. And that threats of legal action will not deter them from leaving if better employment opportunities are available elsewhere.

If a company considers its employees "human resources," rather than mere tools to earn profits, it can find the means to improve their employment conditions.

CORPORATE/ B4

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ECCP bats for creation of ICT dep't

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF Commerce of the Philippines yesterday pushed for the creation of a Department of Information and Communication Technology, saying there was a need for an agency with real powers to drive a sustained growth for the sector.

"Everybody is saying that the Philippines could be a global player in business process outsourcing, but why is there no agency that would ensure this would happen?" said Henry Schumacher, ECCP executive vice president.

Schumacher lamented that while the government has been trumpeting the BPO as a sunrise industry in the past several years, the Commission on ICT was gradually weakening.

"There is not much left of (the Commission today) and what the BPO industry needs is an agency that could push for incentives, launch marketing campaigns and direct a human resource development program," Schumacher explained.

Last January, the ECCP initiated a government-private sector coalition that would promote the country as a primary outsourcing destination for European companies.

Dubbed IT Task Force Europe, the coalition seeks to tap Europe's outsourcing market, which is projected to hit $47 billion in 2007 and grow to $152 billion over the next two years.

Back then, Schumacher said the coalition was looking at options including participation in trade fairs, joining meetings on outsourcing, sending missions to Europe and inviting European companies to the Philippines.

He said such efforts were needed considering that the Philippines only gets a small fraction of European outsourcing needs, the bulk of which comes from the English-speaking countries of United Kingdom and Ireland.

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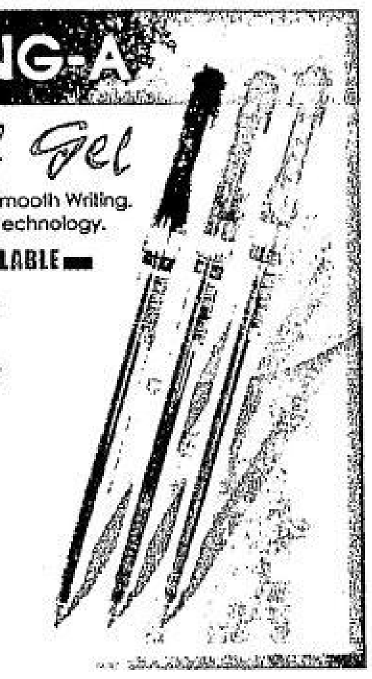

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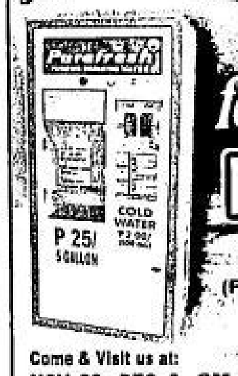

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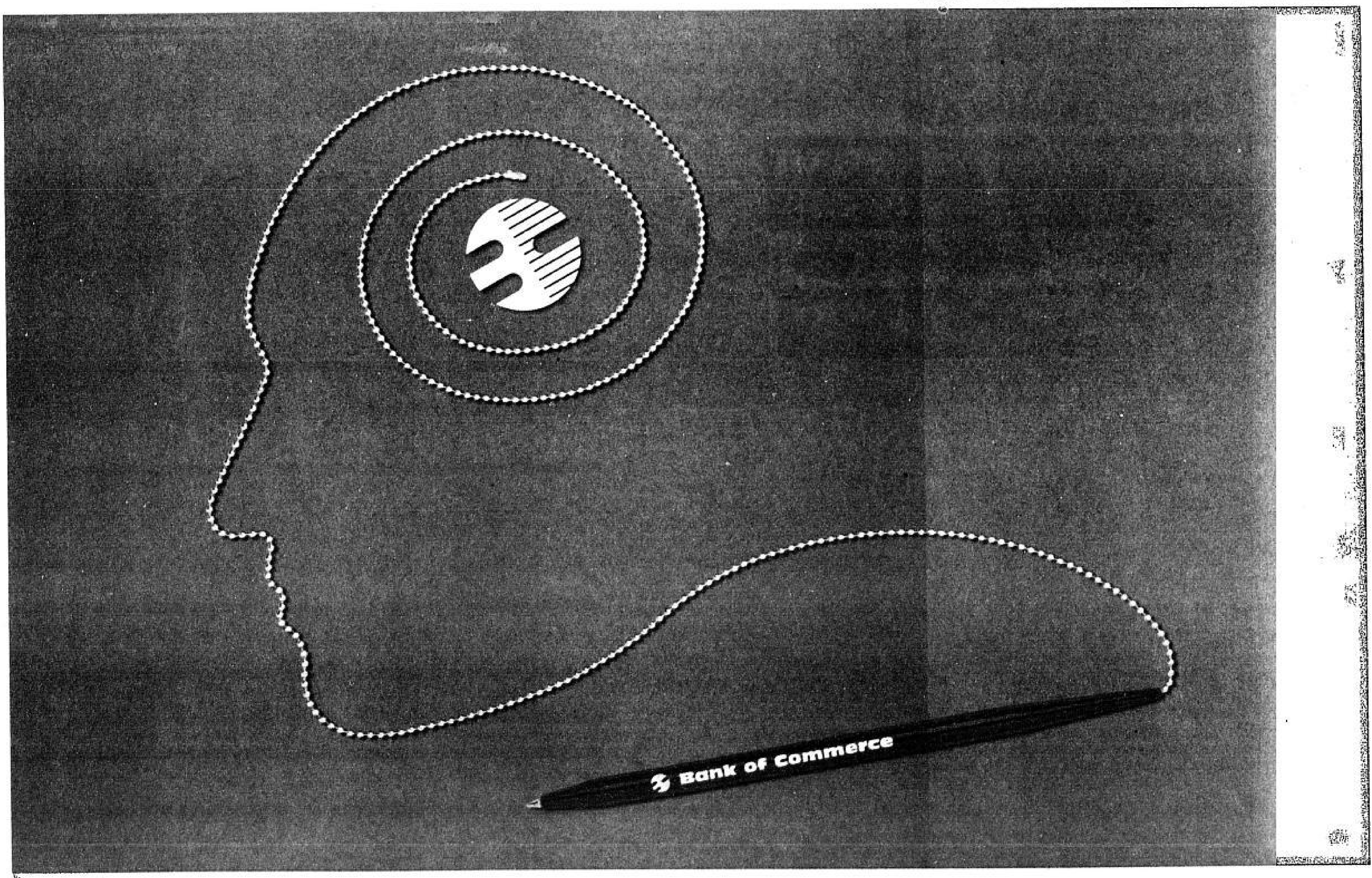

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Steniel unit files for rehab

Firm wants assets conserved

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

STENIEL CAVITE Packaging Corp. (SCPC), a subsidiary of listed carton box maker Steniel Manufacturing Corp., recently filed a petition for rehabilitation with the regional trial court of Imus, Cavite.

The company is seeking rehabilitation to conserve its assets and protect itself from tax claims by the local government, a company official said.

The petition was filed on Nov. 16.

Steniel Manufacturing chair Perry Pe told the INQUIRER that SCPC's move was aligned with a similar voluntary petition for rehabilitation filed by the Steniel Group on Nov. 14. Voluntary rehabilitation involves getting the creditors' approval for debt and equity restructuring.

This move, Pe added, was aimed at ensuring the group's continued operations.

The business operations of SCPC's Cavite plant slowed down in 2006, leading to the shutting down of the company last March 22.

In a report to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Steniel Manufacating said SCPC incurred losses because of difficult economic conditions.

In the meantime, Steniel Manufacturing's own rehabilitation plan involves the sale of certain idle assets of nonoperating subsidiaries, proceeds from which will be used to reduce debts.

The company was declared in default by lending banks on May 24, 2006, after failing to meet its quarterly principal and interest debt payments since March 2004.

After receiving the default notice, Steniel Manufacturing called for a special meeting of shareholders in July 2006 to get their nod for the company's plant to enter into rehabilitation proceedings.

In the last quarter of 2006, Metrobank assigned Steniel Manufacturing's loans to a third party. Bank of the Philippine Islands did the same.

Steniel Manufacturing reported a net loss of P48.39 million from July to September this year, bigger than the P44.18 million incurred a year ago, the company said in a financial statement filed with the PSE.

This brought the company's net loss in the first nine months to P122.24 million, higher than the P116.11 million posted in the same period last year.

Consolidated revenue in the third quarter reached P111.5 million, down from P145.91 million in the same quarter last year due to lower sales volume.

Current liabilities, including loans and accounts payables, amounted to P1.19 billion as of Sept. 30.

The trading of Steniel Manufacturing's shares have been suspended since July 2006. It last closed at 26 centavos per share.

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iRemit, the country's largest Filipino-owned non-bank remittance company, has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Social Security System to provide an Electronic Overseas Collection Service for SSS members overseas. iRemit is the first non-bank remittance agent authorized by the SSS to provide this electronic collection service. Under this tie-up, payments of OFW-members that pay through iRemit will be posted with the SSS within 24 hours. The MOA was signed by (seated, from left) SSS vice president Judy Frances See, SSS president and CEO Corazon dela Paz, iRemit chairman and CEO Bansan Choa, and iRemit president and COO Harris Jacildo. The signing was witnessed by (standing, from left) SSS senior program specialist Joy Villacorta, SSS Foreign Branch Expansion and Monitoring Department head Sylvette Sybico, iRemit director Adolfo Suzara, and iRemit senior vice president Elizabeth Yao.

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Spain's MAPFRE Reaches an Agreement to Acquire US Insurer COMMERCE for $2.2 Billion

MAPFRE INSULAR INSURANCE CORP. announced that its parent company, MAPFRE INTERNACIONAL, recently signed an agreement to acquire 100 percent of the share capital of US insurer COMMERCE for $2.2 billion, in what represents a decisive step in its international expansion and the largest investment in the history of the Group.

MAPFRE will pay the consideration entirely in cash, which it plans to finance through an equity capital raising of $718 million, the issuance of bonds up to $1,148 million, with the balance coming from internal resources.

COMMERCE is the leading writer of non-life personal insurance lines in the state of Massachusetts (US), where it holds a 31.5% market share in personal Motor Insurance. The US insurer is currently involved in an expansion plan outside its state of origin. It holds licences in all 50 states of the Union and operates in 17 of them. COMMERCE began operating in Massachusetts in 1971 and has ranked as the largest personal Motor insurer in this state since 1990. The US Insurer has been listed in the New York Stock Exchange since 1995 and has close to 2,200 employees.

The acquisition underscores MAPFRE's commitment to enter the US market. COMMERCE recorded gross written and accepted premiums of $1,963 million and net earnings of $241.5 million in 2006. After the consolidation of COMMERCE's businesses, MAPFRE's activities in the US will represent close to 10 percent of the total premiums of the Group.

MAPFRE is the leading insurer in Spain. It ranks as the largest insurance group in Latin America and the tenth largest in Europe. At year end 2006, MAPFRE recorded total revenues of €13.6 billion.

MAPFRE, present in 40 countries including the Philippines, has more than 250 companies worldwide. It owns 75% of MAPFRE INSULAR Insurance Corporation with Insular Life Assurance Co. Ltd owning the remaining 25%.

Corporate ...

From page B2

The company's profits may, in the process, be adversely affected, at least in the short run. But the pay back, in terms of high morale and better productivity, will be worth it.

It does not help when businessmen who advocate the restriction of the right of employees to seek the best deal for their services (so their companies' profitability is maintained) are seen in the lifestyle section of the newspapers flaunting their flashy cars and expensive personal accessories.

(For feedback, please write to <rpalabrica@inquirer. com. ph>.)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 22, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.8	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	7.5	8	7.5	8	7,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	52	52	49.5	50.5	4,711,200
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	60.5	61.5	59.5	61	1,104,000
748	540	China Banking Corp.	675	675	670	675	1,260
23.5	14	Citystate Savings Bank	21	23	21	23	1,100
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	3,380,000
75.5	47.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	52	52	50	52	1,653,800
65.5	39	Philippine National Bank	40	42	40	42	208,300
68	46	Philippine Savings Bank	60.5	60.5	60.5	60.5	1,000
39.57	20	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	23.5	23.5	23	23	691,900
90	61	Security Bank Corp.	68	68	68	68	134,200
66	42	Union Bank of the Philippines	43.5	43.5	43	43.5	302,300
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.92	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4	4	4	4	95,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.92	1.92	10,000
16.25	4.6	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	10.5	11	10.5	11	387,500
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	10,000
42.5	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	800
5.9	4.8	I-Remit Inc.	5	5.4	4.8	5.3	11,404,000
5	2.7	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	9,477,000
1,390.00	260	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,055.00	1,100.00	1,055.00	1,100.00	13,870
2,500.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	140
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	679,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.7	4.85	2,958,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	57	58	55.5	58	2,658,900
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	58	61.5	58	61	473,400
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	16.75	16.75	16	16	9,788,600
105.45	27.73	Manila Electric Co.	69	71	68.5	70	1,796,400
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.1	7.3	6.7	6.9	121,046,000
7.4	3.95	Petron Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.7	6,016,000
14.75	6.5	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.5	39,000
2.04	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.22	1.3	1.22	1.28	3,136,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.95	9,000
2.32	1.48	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.56	1.68	1.5	1.5	2,741,000
2.4	1.08	CADP Group Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	47,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22	22	21.5	21.5	8,000
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	46.5	47.5	45	47.5	947,000
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	420,000
80	45	San Miguel Corp. "A"	47	47.5	45	45.5	34,600
88	45	San Miguel Corp. "B"	45	46	45	45.5	180,800
6.5	3	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.6	6.4	4.6	6.4	7,000
20.75	13.5	Universal Robina Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	3,344,700
0.55	0.24	Vitarich Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	200,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.65	EEI Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.55	423,000
21.5	6	Federal Resources Investment Group Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8	8	8	8	5,000
7	3.4	Republic Cement Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	310,000
2	0.73	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	0.93	0.97	0.92	0.97	8,260,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.05	4.05	3.95	4	816,000
1.34	0.82	Interphil Laboratories Inc. "A"	1	1	1	1	70,000
1.4	0.61	Interphil Laboratories Inc. "B"	1	1	1	1	20,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.8	0.85	0.8	0.85	110,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.33	0.36	21,940,000
9	7.3	Splash Corp.	7.3	7.7	7.3	7.7	599,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
39	18.75	ABS-CBN Holdings Corp.-PDR	33	33.5	32.5	33.5	678,400
3.9	2.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	48,000
0.185	0.0525	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.12	0.105	0.115	78,880,000
1.28	0.29	APC Group Inc.	0.53	0.57	0.53	0.57	160,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.65	2.7	2.6	2.7	97,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.0095	0.0095	0.009	0.0095	11,000,000
9.7	5.8	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.6	4,169,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	1,859,000
1.38	0.57	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.83	0.85	0.8	0.8	140,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.44	2.44	2.38	2.38	3,388,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	3.3	3.3	3	3	15,000
645	397.92	Ayala Corp.	560	560	550	560	192,060
15.25	7.39	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	58,400
5.8	1.64	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.6	3.75	3.4	3.75	8,353,000
12	4.95	DMCI Holdings Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,534,500
3.55	1.76	House of Investments Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.9	1.9	50,000
14.5	8.4	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,590,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.52	1.66	1.52	1.66	42,000
2.12	1.42	Lodestar Investment Hldgs Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	16,285,000
11.5	1.5	Minerales Industrias Corp.	5.6	6.2	5.4	6.2	4,663,000
8.5	3	PAL Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	49,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.225	0.235	0.22	0.23	204,120,000
0.75	0.19	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	2,920,000
2.1	1.3	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	3,000
452.5	268.53	SM Investments Corp.	335	340	325	330	275,520
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
0.73	0.14	Sinophil Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.33	2,090,000
1.06	0.61	Solid Group Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	50,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.44	60,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.26	0.29	0.26	0.29	1,100,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.48	1.54	1.48	1.54	1,345,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.4	24,000
1.06	0.4	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.62	60,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	15.5	15.75	15.5	15.75	26,525,900
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	1,177,000
2.06	1.7	Cebu Property Venture and Dev't Corp."B"	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	40,000
3.83	2	City and Land Developers Inc.	2	2	2	2	4,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc.	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.58	1,550,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	650,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.71	0.73	9,600,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.75	3.8	57,000
0.47	0.0575	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.23	0.235	0.215	0.225	8,350,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.91	0.92	0.89	0.92	7,550,000
2.44	1.28	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.48	1.54	28,364,000
0.49	0.11	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	100,000
4.6	1.86	Megaworld Corp.	3.8	3.85	3.75	3.8	24,498,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.1	4.1	4	4.1	126,000
5.2	2.2	Metro Pacific Investments Corp-Warrants -	2.9	3	2.9	2.95	549,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	270,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	400,000
23	14.5	Robinson Land Corp.	17.25	17.5	17	17.5	2,666,600
5.9	1.93	SM Development Corp.	4	4	3.8	3.85	81,000
13.5	7.6	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	10.75	11.25	10.75	11.25	13,431,200
4.5	0.38	Sta. Lucia Land Inc.	1.9	2	1.9	1.98	318,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.52	760,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	400,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	3,910,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31.5	32.5	31.5	32.5	39,800
12	7.8	GMA Holdings Inc.	8	8	7.8	7.8	1,105,000
11.75	7.6	GMA Network Inc.	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.7	471,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.28	1,008,000
1,750.00	1,180.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,450.00	1,450.00	1,390.00	1,405.00	95,350
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,995.00	3,030.00	2,995.00	3,000.00	59,630
8.1	5.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.8	7	6.8	7	3,190,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.185	2,410,000
15.25	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	14.75	15.25	14.5	14.5	2,607,200
11.5	2.5	IPVG Corp.	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.6	558,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.036	0.037	0.035	0.037	8,100,000
29.5	8.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	14.75	15	14.75	15	26,900
5	1.62	Information Capital Tech. Ventures Inc.	2.8	3.1	2.8	3.1	70,000
2.9	1.1	Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.5	3,000
0.32	0.05	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	10,120,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	101,000
0.0725	0.03	Philweb Corp.	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.048	17,700,000
5.8	1.64	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc.	2.55	2.7	2.5	2.7	1,007,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	119,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	105,000
42.5	18.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	38.5	38.5	38	38.5	2,408,600
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	17,000
2.04	1.06	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	101,000
1.16	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.96	1.02	0.94	1.02	4,990,000
1.2	0.54	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	2,150,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	24,000
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	221,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	2.04	Macroasia Corp.	4.4	4.75	4.4	4.75	16,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11	11.25	10.75	11.25	455,300
30	6.4	Paxys Inc.	6.5	6.8	6.4	6.6	183,000
430	390	eTelecare Global Solutions Inc.	390	430	390	410	98,260
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	28,000,000
6.9	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	967,000
7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	899,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	13	13	12.25	12.75	1,549,400
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	11	11.5	11	11.5	22,200
12.75	1.96	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	8.4	8.9	8.4	8.9	97,000
3.1	0.6	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	1.64	1.8	1.52	1.8	81,995,000
0.56	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.43	0.45	0.42	0.44	187,960,000
0.61	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.48	0.5	0.45	0.48	41,830,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.026	212,200,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	1,200,000
30	2	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	17	18.5	16	18.5	1,606,300
0.021	0.0088	Omico Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	186,400,000
0.015	0.007	Omico Corp.-Warrants	0.0085	0.009	0.008	0.009	27,000,000
11.25	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	9.2	9.5	9	9.5	13,824,000
49	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	40	40.5	40	40.5	506,700
1.8	0.7	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.1	726,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.3	2,040,000
0.029	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	52,700,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	37,800,000
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.9	10	9.8	10	47,000
0.032	0.0095	The Philodrill Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.026	98,500,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	844.19 DOWN	4.55	34,273,370	542,006,815.00
Industrial	4,023.14 UP	11.15	188,406,400	1,483,269,660.00
Holding Firms	1,988.50 DOWN	32.84	345,211,480	446,631,745.00
Property	1,577.05 DOWN	20.42	132,277,700	790,378,630.00
Service	1,773.91 DOWN	17.05	58,435,040	537,125,750.00
Mining & Oil	7,888.29 DOWN	62.28	950,869,600	459,700,120.00
All Shares Index	2,121.77 DOWN	18.66		
PSEI	3,478.94 DOWN	31.55		
		GRAND TOTALS	1,709,473,590	4,259,112,720.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

Vista Land bullish on new high-rise residential project in Makati

HOMEBUILDER Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc. expects to generate P1.8 billion in sales from its fifth high-rise residential condominium project in Makati City.

In a statement, Vista Land said the project, called The Gallery at Salcedo, would be developed by its middle market housing brand, Crown Asia.

It is a 32-story condominium that will offer 300 units priced at P2.3 to P5 million. It is scheduled for completion in November 2011.

The Gallery at Salcedo is Crown Asia's first high-rise offering in Makati. Serrano said this project would cost P900 million.

Vista Land entered the high-rise condominium market in Makati with the launch of the Mosaic at Greenbelt in October 2006 by its high-end developer Brittany Corp. To be completed in December 2010, the Mosaic at Greenbelt is already fully sold.

Its second offering launched in October 2007, is KL Mosaic along Legaspi Street.

C&P Homes, the group's brand for affordable homes, has already sold out two buildings, Trevi Towers 1 and 2 both on Pasong Tamo, Makati.

Vista Land, which is led by the family of Senate president Manuel Villar, is spending P4.5 billion for the initial phases of new projects which were estimated to generate P15.7 billion in sales starting 2008.

Company officials said bulk of the budget would go to high-end luxury homes brand Brittany and middle market housing brand Crown Asia.

Elizabeth S. Lacson

Gov't ...

From page B2

in the same period last year.

Periquet noted that October's collections were already bolstered by a 49-percent rise in revenue from "other offices," the category in which privatization receipts and other nonrecurrent revenues were lumped.

He noted that privatization proceeds had so far amounted to more than P40 billion this year, while interest costs were down by P33 billion.

"At the moment, the Department of Finance, which has been mum on the probable reasons for the shortfall, is leaning on asset sales and a falling interest bill to meet its deficit goal," he said.

But since the US property downturn spooked global financial markets earlier this semester, Periquet noted that the blue chips held by the government had lost about a third of their market values.

"Either the revenue leakages are somehow plugged, or the country faces a new round of spending compression in 2008. Or new taxes," Periquet said.

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Get a Mitsubishi Christmas Value Certificate
Avail any of our Zero Interest Plans
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P100,000
Fuzion GLX

Lancer GLX M/T P52,000
Adventure GLX Diesel P15,000
Fuzion GLX P12,500
Christmas Value Certificate maybe applied to any of the following:
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- ✓ Chattel Mortgage
- ✓ Insurance Premium
- ✓ Accessories

Lancer GLX or GLS CVT
Adventure GLS Sport Dsl.
for as long as 36 months

Fuzion GLX
for as long as 24 months
*50% Downpayment

It's so easy to get one this Christmas with Mitsubishi's EASY OWN PLANS

Model	SRP	DP	12	18	24	36	48	60
Fuzion GLX	950,500	100,000	72,412	49,561	39,518	28,162	22,537	19,400
Fuzion GLS Sport	1,150,000	130,000	87,657	59,995	47,837	34,090	27,281	23,485

Model	SRP	DP	12	18	24	36	48	60	72
Lancer 1.6 GLX M/T	695,000	85,000	53,494	36,613	29,186	20,799	16,644	14,328	12,903
Lancer 1.6 GLS CVT	768,000	90,000	58,539	40,066	31,947	22,766	18,219	15,684	14,124

Model	SRP	DP	12	18	24	36	48	60	72
Adventure GLX - Diesel	773,000	70,000	58,740	40,204	32,059	22,847	18,283	15,739	14,174
Adventure GLS Sport - Diesel	840,000	70,000	64,115	43,882	34,989	24,934	19,954	17,177	15,469
Adventure Super Sport - Diesel	883,000	120,000	67,520	46,213	36,845	26,257	21,012	18,088	16,289
Adventure GLS Sport Gas A/T	893,000	120,000	68,414	46,825	37,331	26,603	21,289	18,327	16,504

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- *Available through Banco de Oro, BPI Family Bank, PhilAm Bank, PS Bank, RCBC Savings Bank and Union Bank.*
- *Other irresistible Easy-Own Plans are also available for other Mitsubishi models.*
- *Table shown is for the low downpayment only.*

Promo ends December 29, 2007

Color may vary from actual unit.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5858. Series of 2007.

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Our prospective principal in Australia,

SACAREN MINERAL HOLDINGS LIMITED

urgently needs the following:

☐ (I) GENERAL MANAGER OPERATIONS / SENIOR MINE ENGINEER

- Sacaren Mineral Holdings Limited, an ASX listed company, is progressing its definite feasibility study ("DFS") into the commencement of gold mining operations, located at South Laverton approximately 120 km. north east of Kalgoorlie. The company owns a modern 2.4 mtpa milling facility, associated infrastructure and is currently undertaking regional exploration.
- We are currently seeking a GM (Operations)/ Senior Mining Engineer with extensive experience in open pit gold mining, feasibility studies, Large-scale project management and contract negotiation. Suitable qualifications, expertise in mining software and methodologies are essential.

Key Responsibilities Include:

- Managing the DFS, bringing the project to final decision status,
- Overseeing production start-up and managing all the company's pre-development and mining operations.
- Assisting the managing Director in assessing new acquisition opportunities.
- Based in Perth, this position has outstanding long term potential.
- Interview will be on December 1, 2007 10AM. Please wear smart casual attire.

☐ (3) EXPLORATION GEOLOGIST

Sacaren Mineral Holdings is a dynamic gold exploration company which last year purchased a large tenement holding and the Carosue gold treatment plant and mining camp, situated to north east of Kalgoorlie in Western Australia. Sacaren is completing a feasibility study, based on several previously mined and un-mined gold deposits. It is also carrying out "grass roots" exploration on highly prospective tenement holding with a view to re-commencing gold mining as soon as possible.

Gold mining ceased two years ago, with the Carosue gold treatment plant placed on care and maintenance at that time. Sacaren has recently purchased additional tenements and gold deposits at Wallbrook, near Carosue, and is in the process of adding these to the feasibility study and exploration budget.

- You will be responsible for implementing all aspects of field of exploration with the support of the Sacaren Team, from geochemical sampling and geological mapping to drill supervision and logging, and will report to the exploration manager. This challenging role requires relevant geological qualifications, enthusiasm for outdoor work, a flair for communication, and a good working knowledge of filed equipment, techniques and computing packages.
- You will be an integral part of a small team, working with geological staff and external consultants and contractor as required. The Sacaren approach is to facilitate professional development. All staff are actively encouraged to develop their professional interests and skills.
- You will be based in Carosue, but with regular time in the Perth office, subject to work loads. Field trips have nominal 12-hour days, based on a fly-in fly-out roster Perth to Kalgoorlie
- An attractive salary package will be offered to the right candidate.
- Interview will be on December 1, 2007 10AM. Please wear smart casual attire.

☐ (3) SENIOR EXPLORATION GEOLOGISTS

- You will be responsible for researching project area, target generation and supervising the implementation of all aspect of field with the support of the Sacaren team, from geochemical sampling and geological mapping to drill supervision and logging, and will report to the exploration manager. This challenging role requires relevant geological qualifications, enthusiasm for outdoor work, a flair for communication, and a good working knowledge of filed equipment, techniques and computing packages.
- You will be an integral part of a small team, working with geological staff and external consultants and contractor as required. The Sacaren approach is to facilitate professional development. All staff are actively encouraged to develop their professional interests and skills.
- You will be based in Carosue, but with regular time in the Perth office, subject to work loads. Field trips have nominal 12-hour days, based on a fly-in fly-out roster Perth to Kalgoorlie
- An attractive salary package will be offered to the right candidate.
- Interview will be on December 1, 2007 10 AM. Please wear smart casual attire.

☐ (3) FIELD TECHNICIAN

- You will be responsible for implementing all aspects field exploration logistics, as well as geochemical sampling, surveying, drill-site technical assistance, and geochemical support duties. This challenging role requires relevant exploration field experience, familiarity with geological concepts enthusiasm for out door work, a flair for communication, and a good working knowledge of field equipment techniques and basic computing packages. You will report to the field supervisor.
- You will be an integral part of a small team. Working with geological staff and external consultants and contractors as required. The Sacaren team approach is to facilitate professional development. All staff are actively encouraged to develop their professional interest and skills.
- You will be initially based in Carosue, but with regular time in the Perth office, subject to work loads field trips have nominal 12-hour days, based on a fly-in fly-out roster Perth to Kalgoorlie.
- An attractive salary package will be offered to the right candidate.
- Interview will be on December 1, 2007 10AM. Please wear smart casual attire.

☐ BOILERMAKERS / WELDERS

- A Strong understanding of Occupational Health and Safety Policies and working procedures
- The ability to interpret work instructions and technical drawings common to the trade (3D,Interpretor)
- Demonstrate experience in welding (90%Mig, Arc, & Tig)
- Fabricate products by selecting appropriate equipment tools and methods to methods to maximize productivity.
- Takes measurement and reading using instruments of appropriate accuracy to ensure pre-determined quality standards are achieved.
- A minimum of two years post –trade experience would be ideal
- A background in sheet metal and/or bodybuilding would be ideal in this role.
- Interview will be on November 30, 2007 8AM.

☐ MACHINISTS

- Working in a high volume/repetition environment these role will be set , edit and operate CNC Lathes with Auto Chuck and fitted with One touch IGF-X controllers.
- Interview will be on November 30, 2007 8AM.

☐ FITTERS / MECHANICS

- The role will be supporting the manufacture of RC rotary drilling equipment to safely and efficiently produce components and product to pre-determined quality standard.
- The main duties will include maintenance construction and repair of drill rigs. Imperative to this role is to safely maintain service and provide technical support to the manufacture of drill rigs and ancillary equipment.
- To ensure safe and efficient utilization of resources. This will include the completion of maintenance records, logs and documentation as required ensuring statutory requirements are maintained for respective equipment. Work will be carried out in a workshop environment and (on the rare occasion) may require remote field locations for a period of time (as mutually agreed)
- Interview will be on November 30, 2007 8AM.

Terms and conditions of employment to be discussed during the interview. Interested applicants may email their detailed resume to rpaladio_drillingadvisory@yahoo.com or fax to (632) 9520531

EASTGATE MANPOWER CONSULTANTS, INC.
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Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission, with address at P. Paredes St. cor. N. Reyes St. (formerly Morayta St.), Sampaloc, Manila hereby invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Items to Bid and Description	Quantity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Venue of Pre-bid Conference	Date/Venue of Submission and Opening of Bids	Non-Refundable Fee
1. DIGITAL DUPLICATOR	15 units	P 5,925,000.00	November 26, 2007 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	December 7, 2007 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P 6,000.00
2. SHREDDER MACHINE	15 units	P 1,349,000.00	November 26, 2007 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	December 7, 2007 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P 1,400.00
3. COLLATING MACHINE	4 units	P 2,520,000.00	November 27, 2007 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	December 10, 2007 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P 2,500.00
4. AIRCONDITIONING UNITS (including installation) · WINDOW TYPE Capacity : 2.5 HP	16 units	P 3,659,788.00	November 27, 2007 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	December 10, 2007 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P 3,700.00
FLOOR MOUNTED SPLIT TYPE Capacity : 3 tons 1 phase	26 units				
FLOOR MOUNTED SPLIT TYPE Capacity : 5 tons 3 phase	11 units				
FLOOR MOUNTED SPLIT TYPE Capacity : 10 tons 3 phase	4 units				
CEILING MOUNTED TYPE Capacity : 5 tons 3 phase	5 units				

Only bidders registered with the Electronic Procurement Service for procurement of goods and services shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process.

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained at cost by interested bidders starting on November 21, 2007 from the Office of the BAC Secretariat.

The PRC Bids and Awards Committee shall screen the eligibility of prospective bidders based on their compliance with the eligibility requirements on a pass/fail basis, evaluate, and post-qualify bids to determine whether the bidder concerned complies with and is responsive to all the requirements and conditions for eligibility.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to verify the veracity of any information or authenticity of any document submitted in the course of bidding and to undertake ocular inspection of offices and facilities of bidders. It likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the PRC. It shall not assume any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) **LEONOR T, ROSERO**
Chairperson

(PDI–Nov. 23, 2007)

MINISTRY OF TOURISM
MALAYSIA

TOURISM MALAYSIA

MALAYSIA TOURISM
PROMOTION BOARD

NOTICE OF OFFER

Officer is invited from any experienced Public Relations Agency registered with professional organization to submit offer for the following :

Tender No : MTPB 1/07
Public Relations Agency

Interested agencies are invited to attend the tender briefing as follows :-

Date : 3 December 2007
Time : 2:00 PM
Venue : Conference Room
Embassy of Malaysia
10th Floor The World Center
330 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City

Tender will be closed on the 13 th of December 2008 at 12.00 noon. Tender document must be submitted to the Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board, c/o Embassy of Malaysia, 11th Floor The World Center Building 330 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, 1227 Makati City.

(PDI–Nov. 23, 2007)

ATTENTION
ALL Saladmaster OWNERS!

Saladmaster Inc. of Arlington, Texas has issued a new warranty and servicing card. We are encouraging existing Saladmaster owners to register their cookware as soon as possible to enjoy the benefits of the warranty. For further information please call the sole distributor of Saladmaster products in the Philippines, PHIL. PACIFIC TRADE, INC. at 522-3021 to 23 and look for Mr. Neil Sagun or Mr. Jun Soriano, or send an e-mail to manila@pptiintl.com .

Mark George
MARK GEORGE
Vice-President - Asia Pacific Region
Saladmaster, Inc.

ZAMBOANGA CITY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(ZAMCELCO)
Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID

The Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO) at Putik, this city per requisite under Board Policies on Pre-Qualifications, and Bids and Awards invites ALL interested Bidders/Suppliers to bid for the supply of the following electrical materials/ equipment/items, to wit:

No.	Quantity	Unit	Item Description
1	25	DRUMS	TRANSFORMER OIL DIALA-A FOR REPLACEMENT OF TRANSFORMER OIL OF P29,000.00 PER DRUM 5MVA NEW KOREA PULLED OUT FROM AYALA S/S

You may secure the Pre-qualification Requirements from the office of the Finance Department, ZAMCELCO Complex in Putik, this city anytime during office hours and submit the same upon completion of all requirements thereof.

Submission of the Pre-qualification Requirements shall not be later than 5:00 p.m. of **November 24, 2007** and no documents appertaining thereto, shall be accepted thereafter.

All applicants will be duly notified as to the results of the pre-qualification eligibility process. Only those who are pre-qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding. A post-qualification may be conducted accordingly hereafter.

Bidding will be conducted on **November 27, 2007**.

Sealed bid in duplicate copies should be submitted to the Committee on Bids and Awards at the Office of the Finance Department at the above-mentioned address on or before 2:00 p.m. of **November 27, 2007**. Five percent (5%) Bidder's Bond is required as a matter of policy.

The right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the coop is hereby reserved as an absolute prerogative of ZAMCELCO.

(Sgd.) **REINERIO R. RAMOS**
General Manager

(PDI - Nov. 23 & 24, 2007)

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Siam Group asks gov't to protect tile makers

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SIAM CEMENT GROUP (SCG), ONE of the leading conglomerates in Thailand, has asked the government to keep the surcharge on imported ceramic tiles to protect domestic producers from influx of imports.

SCG, which owns close to 50 percent of ceramic-tile maker Mariwasa Siam Ceramics Inc., said local manufacturers needed more time to prepare for competition from foreign goods because they were burdened by increasing operating costs, partly due to rising energy prices.

SCG also said Mariwasa, which has a manufacturing plant in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, plans to launch 370 new ceramic tile designs and expand its distribution network.

To help the projects to push through despite increasing operating costs, SCG said domestic producers should be protected against imported tiles.

Mariwasa president Surasak Kraiwitchaicharoeu said in a briefing that his office had already submitted a petition before the Tariff Commission to retain the import surcharge on ceramic tiles.

A surcharge on imported tiles of P5.40 a kilo was first imposed in 2002. This dropped to P4.30 in 2003, P3.50 in 2004 and P2.80 in 2005.

The surcharge was supposed to have been lifted in 2005, but the ceramic manufacturing industry got a two-year extension.

The surcharge was set at P2.80 a kilo in 2005, P2.45 last year and P2.15 this year.

The surcharge is scheduled to be lifted by the end of the year.

But Mariwasa said it needed more time to cope with rising operating costs.

Mariwasa wants the Tariff Commission to keep the surcharge for four more years, or until 2011, preferably at P2 a kilo next year.

The surcharge is on top of the 20-percent duty on ceramic tile imports.

"We hope to get a response from the Tariff Commission before the end of this year," Kraiwitchaicharoeu said.

The Ceramic Tile Manufacturers Association (CTMA) earlier submitted a similar petition to keep the surcharge, saying the industry needed more time to prepare for the influx of imports once the surcharge is lifted.

"The domestic industry is asking for additional time to implement its adjustment plans and make it globally competitive. The domestic industry has been serious and has invested time and resources in its adjustment plans," CTMA earlier said in its petition.

CTMA said its adjustment plans include coming up with alternative sources of energy to reduce power cost.

Mariwasa said that its own adjustment plan over the next four years will include, among others, an 8-percent reduction in its power consumption, cut in its LPG consumption by 10 percent, and decrease in its fuel cost by 40 percent.

Holcim renews supply deal with Napocor

By Abigail L. Ho

HOLCIM PHILIPPINES INC., THE country's biggest cement manufacturer, has renewed its power supply contract with the National Power Corp. for another five years.

According to the contract, Napocor will supply 148.9 megawatt-hours of power to Holcim's Lugait, Misamis Oriental plant from Nov. 26, 2007 to Nov. 25, 2012.

Holcim's previous contract with Napocor was signed in 1998 and was in effect for 10 years.

According to Napocor's estimates, its new contract with Holcim will generate P56 million in revenues each month, or around P670 million in sales each year.

As with other Napocor customers, the rate applicable to Holcim will be based on the state firm's Energy Regulatory Commission-approved time-of-use (TOU) rates, which are cheaper during off-peak periods.

Under Napocor's TOU scheme, customers are provided with flexible hourly rates that are lowest during off-peak hours, or between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., and highest during peak hours, or from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays and holidays are also considered off-peak times.

Rates are also lower during the wet season, or from July to December, as electricity demand usually falls during this time due to the colder weather.

Apart from Holcim's Misamis Oriental plant, Napocor also provides power to the cement giant's manufacturing facilities in La Union and Davao City.

Holcim operates four cement plants in the country, which are located in Bacnotan, La Union, Norzagaray, Bulacan, Davao City and Lugait, Misamis Oriental.

Napocor's other cement company-customers are Fortune Cement, Republic Cement and Northern Cement Corp. in Luzon; Premier Cement and Taiheiyo Cement Philippines in the Visayas; and Iligan Cement in Mindanao.

Napocor has 262 customers, with 137 customers based in Luzon, 62 in Visayas and 63 in Mindanao.

PRULINK PRU LIFE U.K.

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week November 20, 2007	Last Week November 13, 2007
Bond Fund - Peso	1.64994	1.64911
Managed Fund - Peso	1.92615	1.93581
Growth Fund - Peso	1.84968	1.89198
Equity Fund - Peso	0.93171	0.95878
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.4215	1.4207

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

INSULAR LIFE

Insular Life Wealth Builder
Insular Life Wealth Builder
Insular Life Wealth SECURE

Investment funds of **Wealth Series**

UNIT PRICES (in Php)	Nov 19,2007	Nov 12,2007
Fixed Income Fund	1.303881	1.302112
Balanced Fund	1.488753	1.489178
Equity Fund	1.797012	1.800182
Dollar Fixed Income Fund	1.000973	.999723

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(Procurement of Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants (POL) Products)

1. The *Department of National Defense /Armed Forces of the Philippines (DND/AFP)*, through the General Appropriations Acts (GAA) FY 2008/2009, intend to apply the sums as indicated below being the *Approved Budgets for the Contract* (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of *Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants* (POL) requirements of the AFP for the whole year of CY 2008 and CY 2009.

Unit/Command	Agency Budget for CY 2008	Agency Budget forCY 2009	Total Budget
Philippine Army	P 641,412,000.00	P 641,412,000.00	P 1,282,824,000.00
Philippine Air Force	996,462,000.00	996,462,000.00	1,992,924,000.00
Philippine Navy	901,109,000.00	901,109,000.00	1,802,218,000.00
General Headquarters	354,208,000.00	354,208,000.00	708,416,000.00
Philippine Mil. Academy	10,935,000.00	10,935,000.00	21,870,000.00
Pres'l Security Group	9,766,000.00	9,766,000.00	19,532,000.00
AFP Medical Center	10,480,000.00	10,480,000.00	20,960,000.00
TOTAL	P 2,924,372,000.00	P 2,924,372,000.00	P 5,848,744,000.00

2. The *DND/AFP* now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the procurement of the POL Requirements of the entire AFP. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in *Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders (ITB)*

LOT#	PARTICULARS	ABC (PhP)	PERIOD COVERED
Lot 1	Fuel, Metro Manila Rqmts	P 791,743,594.00	CY 2008
Lot 2	Fuel, Operational Rqmts	1,082,446,429.00	
Lot 3	Aviation Fuel, MM & Opn'l Rqmts (Regions 1-12,CAR,CARAGA & ARMM)	943,808,968.00	
Lot 4	Lubricant, MM & Opn'l Rqmts (Regions 1-12, CAR, CARAGA & ARMM)	106,373,009.00	
	Sub-Total	P 2,924,372,000.00	
LOT#	PARTICULARS	ABC (PhP)	PERIOD COVERED
Lot 5	Fuel, Metro Manila Rqmts	P 791,743,594.37	CY 2009
Lot 6	Fuel, Operational Rqmts	1,082,446,428.92	
Lot 7	Aviation Fuel, MM & Opn'l Rqmts (Regions 1-12,CAR,CARAGA & ARMM)	943,808,968.00	
Lot 8	Lubricant, MM & Opn'l Rqmts (Regions 1-12, CAR, CARAGA & ARMM)	106,373,009.00	
	Sub-Total	P 2,924,372,000.00	
	Grand Total	P 5,848,744,000.00	

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the *Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184* (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "*Government Procurement Reform Act*" and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws and regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the DND Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday to Friday excluding holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP 50,000.00)**. The method of payment will be on cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The AFP/DND will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on or before **10:00 A.M., 04 December 2007** at 9:00 a.m. at DND Conference Room, 3rd Floor DND Bldg., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **10:00 A.M., 17 December 2007**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any form and corresponding amount allowed under RA 9184 and its IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **10:00 A.M., 17 December 2007**, at the DND Conference Room, 3rd Floor DND Bldg., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. Only bids from suppliers or their duly authorized representatives will be entertained.
10. To facilitate eligibility checking, suppliers and/or prospective bidders who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND BAC, through the DND BAC Secretariat at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the project pursuant to DND BAC Cir 01-2005 dtd 12 May 2005 (copy of the circular can be downloaded at the website specified below).
11. The DND/AFP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

**DND BAC Secretariat
Room 104-A, First Floor,
Left Wing, DND Building,
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo,
Quezon City, Philippines 1110
Telephone No: (632) 911-6001 local 8414
Telefax No: (632) 421-3531
E-mail address: bacsecretariat@dnd.gov.ph**

(Sgd.) ASEC ROBERTO G. NUQUI
Chairman, DND BAC

(PDI – November 23, 2007)

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STAR ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC. (SAMSI)

STARAUCTION PART 3

November 24, 2007 (Saturday)
Max's Restaurant, Jupiter St., Bel Air II, Makati City
• REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00AM • AUCTION STARTS AT 9:00AM

10% DOWN PAYMENT
10 YRS PAYMENT TERMS
10% INTEREST FIXED P.A.
ACCEPTING PRE-AUCTION OFFERS!

GEN. SANTOS CITY PROPERTIES

COMM'L LOT W/ IMPV'T
Lot Area: 7,501 sqm.
Floor Area: 4,697 sqm
(BESIDE China Bank)
SANTIAGO BOULEVARD, Bario Lagao
Min. Bid Price:
P96,759,750

WHOLE SUBD. W/O DEV'T
Lot Area: 170,716 sqm.
SERRAMAR EXEC. HOMES,
Conel Rd., Lagao
(near w/n Brgy. Makar)
Min. Bid Price:
P68,754,754

FOR DETAILS, CALL THE PROPERTY FORUM PHILS., MONDAY TO SUNDAY, 7:AM TO 7:PM
TEL. NOS.: (02) 534-9686 / (02) 534-9725 CELLPHONE NO.: 0919-5649933

Show money P25,000 cash or Managers Check per property payable to STAR ASSET MANAGEMENT ROPOAS, INC. All properties for sale are on "as is where is" basis. Properties are subject to change without prior notice & The OWNER reserves the right at anytime to pull out, to correct errors in prices, terms, details & status of the properties in the event descrepancies are found.

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Noli "El Subastajero" Alleje
nolialleje @yahoo.com

Republic of the Philippines
CEBU PORT AUTHORITY
CIP Complex, Serging Osmeña Boulevard
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City
E-mail cpa@cpa.mozcom.com
Telephone 232-1461 to 63 • 231-6856 to 57
Fax No. 231-6848

RE-INVITATION TO BID

The Cebu Port Authority, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City, through its Disposal Committee, invites interested parties to bid on the sale of its equipment:

Items for Disposal: **"AS IS," "WHERE IS"** located at CIP Complex, S. Osmeña Blvd., North Reclamation Area, Cebu City, are:

• 1 unit – 35 Tonner Level Luffing Crane	P	3,765,040.00
• 1 unit – 25 Tonner Level Luffing Crane	P	3,597,288.00

The bid documents will be available starting Nov. 23-27, 2007 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00) through the Disposal Committee located at the ground floor of Cebu Port Authority Main Office.

A pre-bidding conference shall be held on Dec. 04, 2007, 2:00 P.M., CPA Conference Room.

All bids should be submitted to the Disposal Committee on or before 2:00 PM of December 17, 2007 at the CPA Conference Room. All bids submitted shall be opened in public view immediately after the lapse of the deadline.

The bidder's bond shall be required in the amount equal to 10% of the minimum bid price set by CPA in the form of cash, manager's check or cashier's check acquired from a reputable bank within Cebu City.

CPA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/defect therein, and to accept such bid as may be deemed most advantageous to the government.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Perlita G. Jumapao at Tel. No. 231-6849.

(Sgd.) MARIO G. TAN
BAC Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) ANGELO C. VERDAN
General Manager

(PDI–Nov. 23, 2007)

Home Guaranty Corporation

Office of the President

NOTICE OF SALE

Please be informed that the following properties of the Home Guaranty Corporation are being offered for public bidding:

	PROPERTY LOCATION	TYPE	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	SELLING PRICE	REMARKS
1	Finasia Homes Subdivision, Parañaque City	Lot only	-	200	1,311,000.00	vacant
2	Finasia Homes Subdivision, Parañaque City	Lot only	-	195	1,345,500.00	vacant
3	Finasia Homes Subd. (commercial lot)	Commercial Lot	61	61	1,365,976.23	illegally occupied/Commercial Area
4	Finasia Homes Subd. (commercial lot)	Commercial Lot	106	106	2,373,663.62	illegally occupied/Commercial Area
5	Finasia Homes Subd. (commercial lot)	Commercial Lot	55	55	1,231,617.92	illegally occupied/Commercial Area
6	Finasia Homes Subd. (commercial lot)	Commercial Lot	81	81	1,813,837.29	illegally occupied/Commercial Area
7	Finasia Homes Subd. (commercial lot)	Commercial Lot	60	60	1,481,583.18	illegally occupied/Commercial Area
8	Finasia Homes Subd. (commercial lot)	Commercial Lot	69	69	1,862,520.66	illegally occupied/Commercial Area

FOR INTERESTED PARTIES, PLEASE CALL HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION AT 896-04-25, 897-31-49 OR VISIT OUR HEAD OFFICE AT JADE BLDG. NO. 335 SEN. GIL PUYAT AVENUE, MAKATI CITY.

(Sgd.) RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS
VICE PRESIDENT
ASSET MANAGEMENT AND
DISPOSITION GROUP

(PDI–November 23, 2007)

BPI's Equity Fund allows investors to enjoy gains from local bourse

Although the Philippine stocks closed lower by 0.90% or 31.55 points yesterday to end at 3,478.94, this represents a great opportunity for investors to enter the stock market. Notwithstanding correction in the market, analysts remain bullish about the stock market with the index expected to reach the 4,200 to 4,500 mark in the next twelve months.

Investors who want to achieve capital growth should thus take advantage of opportunities like these to buy equity funds at very attractive prices. Equity funds provide the highest potential returns for those who are willing to absorb losses or those who are able to stand out large market swings. They are definitely not for the weak hearted but they present you the best option for capital growth.

Equity Funds are best for those who want to enter the stock market but do not have a lot of money to start with to achieve wide diversification. This is why these funds are currently very popular among aggressive investors. Among the equity funds available in the market today is the BPI Equity Fund.

As of 19 November 2007, BPI Equity Fund posted a past 1 year net absolute return of 30.86%. It is invested primarily in listed stocks at the Philippine Stock Exchange. As an actively-managed fund, it employs active investment strategies such as stock picking, market timing and asset allocation decisions. Thus, an investor in the Fund need not worry about when to enter and leave the stock market since the managers of the fund take care of this. Investors are, however, advised to maintain a long-term investment horizon in order to maximize the earnings potential of his investment.

Before an investor can actually invest in BPI Equity Fund or any other BPI Investment Fund, he is made to undergo a Client Suitability Test (CST). The objective of this process is to be able to recommend the right BPI Investment Fund suited to the client's investment objectives, risk tolerance, preferences and experience. The decision to invest based on the recommendation is still for the client to make. The certified UITF Marketing Personnel is expected, however, to effectively and sufficiently communicate why the specific product is considered to be in the best interest of the client at the time the recommendation is given.

Single-hulled black oil tankers face suspension

Ship firms race to convert vessels as deadline looms

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY (Marina) has given shipping companies until April 23, 2008 to phase out single-hulled tankers used in transporting fuel oil or black oil.

Companies that fail to meet the deadline will be ordered to suspend operations. Repeat offenders will have their license revoked and their vessels de-listed from the Philippine registry.

"Tankering companies must ... convert [their single-hulled vessels] or replacing them altogether with newly built double-hulled tankers," Marina administrator Vic Suazo said in an interview.

So far, a few tankering companies have commissioned double-hulled vessels ahead of schedule. One of them is Petrolift Inc. (Petrolift), one of the largest oil and gas tankering and bulk logistics firms in the country.

Petrolift commissioned last month a brand-new double hull tanker, M/T Petro Celine, for use by Pilipinas Shell. The vessel is the second double-hulled tanker chartered by the oil company from Petrolift.

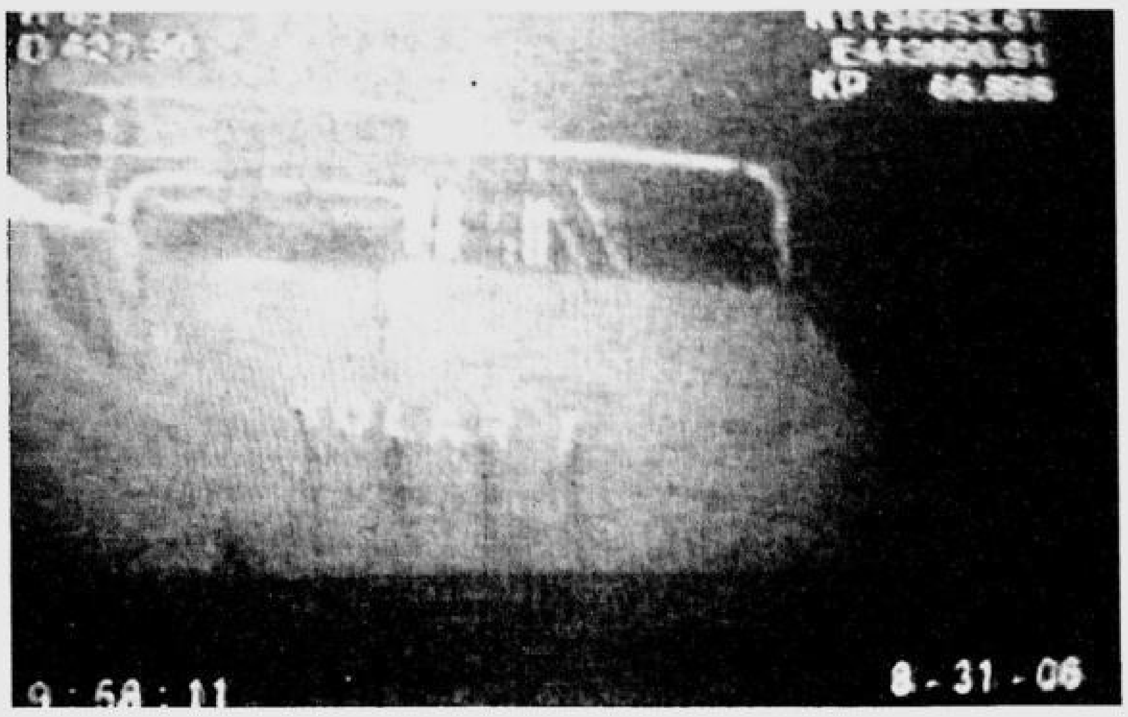
The maritime regulator said early this year that the 214 black oil tankers plying Philippine waters have to follow the International Maritime Organization (IMO) oil pollution convention, which says that member-countries should have double-hulled black tankers by April 2008. These double-hulled tankers must also be double-bottomed by 2010.

This is in line with global efforts to protect marine ecosystems.

The Philippines is no stranger to oil spills that kill marine life.

The Guimaras oil spill of 2006, said to be the largest maritime disaster to hit the country, as well as other similar tragedies in the past, served as precursors to strengthen the resolve of local authorities to implement stringent and urgent measures to ensure that Philippine waters are protected.

Marina estimates also show that the domestic shipping industry would need to replace a total of 2,137 ships over the next ten years.



A STILL picture culled from a video taken by the Japanese survey vessel Shin Sei Maru showed the oil tanker M/T Solar I, which sank off Guimaras Island in August 2006. The oil spill that resulted from the mishap could have been prevented had the vessel been a double-hulled tanker.

INQUIRER PHOTO

Local shipyards currently do not have the technology and facilities to make such vessels, but many are now establishing ties with foreign shipyards to be able to cope with demand, said Emerson M. Lorenzo, head of Marina's Shipping Regulation Office.

Industry sources say that the double-hull design practically eliminates the possibility of an oil spill in the event of a collision at sea. The cargo is protected both by the interior and exterior hulls since double hulling reinforces the integrity of the vessel's structure and increases vessel buoyancy.

For the Philippines' requirements, each vessel would have to be between 2,500 dwt (deadweight tons) and 3,750 dwt.

A vessel of such size could cost anywhere from $8 million and $16 million depending on the size, features and brand.

Volatility in global markets may drag down Asian economies

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT Bank yesterday warned that prolonged volatility in global financial markets and persistent risk aversion could lead to a reversal of capital flows to emerging East Asian economies.

"Although the region is more resilient than in previous periods of financial market turbulence, several risks remain," the ADB said in the November issue of Asia Bond Monitor.

While strong economic growth and improved financial systems, along with limited exposure to US subprime mortgages, had helped curb spillover effects of global credit woes on the region, the downside risks to regional economic and financial market trends remained, and wider ramifications could not be ruled out in the future, the report warned.

Subprime mortgages refer to housing credit given to borrowers with imperfect credit history and little equity. Rising subprime delinquencies in the United States have spooked financial markets as big banks took bad hits from exposure to financial instruments with subprime credit as underlying asset. In turn, it has caused sporadic investor aversion to assets from emerging markets.

The ADB warned that uncertainty regarding the losses from US subprime delinquencies—together with an onset of high volatility in markets—could also set off an unwinding of the yen "carry trade," resulting in yen buybacks and sell-offs of other Asian currencies.

The yen "carry trade" refers to the borrowing of funds from low-interest Japan and investing the proceeds in higher yielding assets from emerging markets. The Philippines, which has lured in $3.7 billion worth of hot money or investments in local stocks and bonds from January to October this year from only $1.97 billion a year ago, is among the beneficiaries if this carry trade phenomenon.

"This has the potential to spill over to target markets in emerging East Asia and significantly disrupt local currency bond markets—and market liquidity more generally," the report said.

Shares close 0.9% lower

From page B1

The broader all-share index fell 18.66 points to 2,121.77.

"The market will remain under selling pressure for as long as the US market remains volatile," said Francisco Liboro of PCCI Securities.

He said investors were concerned the fallout from the US housing and credit crisis, which started in August, will continue until next year as recent economic data suggest a slowdown.

"The usual yearend rally may be under threat, but hopefully we may still see the traditional window-dressing before the end of the year," said Liboro.

Leading the day's decline was market heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone, which shed P20 to P3,000.

Ayala Corp. lost P5 to P560.

After losing its bid for a controlling stake in power producer PNOC Energy Development Corp, San Miguel fell further with its A shares losing P1.50 to P45.50, while its B shares dropped P2 to P45.50. *AFP*

RP may sustain ...

From page B1

The finance and budget departments, Guinigundo said, deserved credit for the rapid decline in the government's budget deficit as a ratio of GDP.

From a high of 5.3 percent in 2002, the fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio has slid to 1.1 percent as of end-2006. By next, the country hopes to balance the budget.

GDP, the single most important indicator of economic output, refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the economy in a given period.

But according to Guinigundo, there are other building blocks that have to be put up. He cited the need to improve infrastructure and to attract investors to augment funds for capital outlays.

"If we can also get these capital flows absorbed by both the public and private sector precisely to augment infrastructure building in the economy, I'm sure we can push an economic growth of 7 percent or more," Guinigundo said.

He said another major challenge for the country would be a sustainable training and education of human resources, given the exodus of a lot of skilled workers overseas—or the brain drain phenomenon.

"If the government can continue to support elementary education with emphasis on Math, English and Sciences, then we'll be able to sustain this level of economic growth because there will always be people who can take care of different areas of the economy," he said.

He said the manpower left in domestic markets should still have sufficient skills to contribute to economic productivity.

Solons question ...

From page B1

like PNOC EDC which, as the world's number one in steam technology and number two in geothermal energy, would have generated more profits (currently P600 million a year) with the surge in prices.

"It is the most profitable venture of government," Santiago said. "The argument that we should sell when it is profitable might be relevant in a business environment, but we are talking of a policy environment.

"What is the national policy? Geothermal energy as an alternative source of energy should be sustainable in our country. If we sell this to the private sector, it is the private sector that will make money, not our government."

By leaving the exploration of indigenous fuel resources to foreigners, Santiago said, the government would "irresponsibly" create a vacuum in the energy development plans.

"It is not the mandate of the DOF to raise revenues through privatization," said Santiago. "What would the international investment community think of a government that seeks to balance off its budget by selling off its assets?"

Contrary to the DOF's claim that the government would lose face if it would reverse the privatization, Santiago said that the sale only proved to the international community that "we are not as strong as we claim if we depend in a one-off sale to cover the budget deficit which should be logically covered by increased revenues from the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs."

Santiago also reminded Teves that the JCPC was no ordinary committee, but an "extremely powerful commission."

Despite the "spirited defense" of the PNOC-EDC sale by its president Paul Aquino, Santiago said all the 14 members of the joint commission found his arguments invalid.

"They are effective for a business organization, but not for the running of government," Santiago said.

According to a ranking official of the Philippine National Oil Co., the sale of the government's stake in PNOC EDC could not have come at a better time.

"The company, as a commercial entity, has reached its apex," PNOC president and Privatization Committee chair Antonio Cailao said. "Its commercial value today is now at its highest, so this is the best time to sell it."

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Death Notice

DR. JAIME ERNESTO B. BASA

March 6, 1960 - Nov. 12, 2007

His body lies at Chapel Gumamela, 3F Sanctuarium, Araneta Ave., Quezon City. Viewing is on Nov. 23 to 26. There will be an 8 p.m. Mass on Nov. 23; 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 24; and 5 p.m. on Nov. 25.

Interment will be on Nov. 27, 2007 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

ELISEO C. LORENZANA

Nov. 18, 2007
Peacefully died at the age of 94.

His body lies at Our Lady of Peace Memorial Chapel (near Antipolo Church), Antipolo Rizal,

Interment today, Nov. 23.

Our Beloved

JOSE M. CACDAC

Died in the peace of the Lord
on November 22, 2007 at the age of 86.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels,
Guadalupe, Makati.

There will be a Mass on Sunday at Loyola Memorial Chapels.

Interment will follow at Manila Memorial Park,
Sucat, Parañaque.

The family is requesting your prayers
for the eternal repose of his soul.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
2 Timothy 4:7

ELISA NADYA E. GAMO

Now peacefully rests in the infinite grace and goodness of the Lord on the 21st day of November, 2007 at the age of 58.

She will be missed by her loving mother, **Leonila Encarnacion**; husband **Edgardo**; children **Edgardo Jr. & Hellanor**, **Emil Roberto & Monalisa**, **Edison Michael & Whitney**, grandchildren; **Angela Marie & Angelo Gabriel**; & other relatives, friends, nurses, **Beth & Rose**.

Her cremated remains will be viewed in state at the Garden Suite, Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City from the 21st until the 22nd day of November 2007. She will then be transferred for viewing at her residence at #10 Don Manuel St. Vesco Subdivision, San Pablo City, Laguna from 2:00 pm of 22nd until 12:00 noon of the 24th of November, 2007.

"Love does not die – people do. So when all that's left of me is love, give me away,
I'LL SEE YOU AT HOME IN HEAVEN..."

AFPSLAI SERVICES CORPORATION
Wishes to condole with the bereaved family of
Our Dearly Beloved

MIGUEL "Mike" BAÑAS DIVINO, JR.

Director/President & General Manager
who peacefully joined the Lord on
November 10, 2007 in California, USA at the age of 69.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel in
Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

A funeral mass will be held on Sunday,
November 25, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.

Interment will be held thereafter at the Himlayang Pilipino
Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

"KINDLY OMIT FLOWERS"

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ANTONIO A. AGUILAR, CPA

of Jones, Isabela

express our heartfelt gratitude
to those who remembered
him on his
1st Death Anniversary
on November 22, 2007.

Please continue to pray for his
eternal repose in heaven.

EDMUNDO A. GORGONIA

died at the age of 45 on November 16, 2007
at Cagayan de Oro City.

Emoy as he is known to many, was born in Manila, on June 10, 1962. He graduated from Ateneo de Manila University with a degree in Management Engineering. Married Mayet Yu Gorgonia on Nov. 16, 1991.

A member and Past President of Rotary Club of Metro Cagayan de Oro. A brother mason of Maguindanao Lodge No. 40.

Emoy and sabong are two synonymous words to those who know him. Producer and host of Tukaan and Sultada TV cockfighting shows, he stands by the belief: "DO EVERYTHING TO WIN, EXCEPT CHEAT."

Emoy is survived by his wife **Mayet**; their two boys, **Jed** (Jose Eduardo) and **Iking** (Jose Enrique); his parents: Atty. Florencio Gorgonia, and Nena Gorgonia; sisters, brothers and sister-in-law: Vilma, Ana, Florencio Jr., Ferdinand, Daniel and Carol; nieces: Gaia, Jan Noor, and Veronia Alexandra.

His remains lie in state at the Favre Hall Immaculate Conception Formation Center at the Ateneo de Manila High School in Katipunan, Quezon City until November 24, 2007 and will be transferred to San Lorenzo Chapel, Sta. Maria della Strada Parish Church, Katipunan St. cor. Pansol St., Quezon City. Cremation will be on Nov. 28, 2007, Wednesday at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 10:30am Holy Mass.

JUDGE AUGUSTO OCA SUMILANG (Ret.)

March 10, 1927 – Nov. 19, 2007

Beloved brother of **Zenaida (†)**, **Librado (†)**, **Rosita** and **Monina**

His loving wife **Mariquita**, children, **Dakila & Gwen**, **Magtanggol & Edna**, **Maharlika & Jannette**, **Tagumpay & Gina**, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at S.L. Rebong St. Victoria, Laguna.

Interment will be on Nov. 24, 2007, Saturday after the 3:00 pm Mass.

In Loving Memory
97th BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

Don Manuel Cancio

(November 23, 1910 - June 29, 2002)

On the occasion of the 97th Birth Anniversary of the late Don Manuel Cancio, his family and friends will offer masses in the following parishes today, November 23, 2007:

MASS SCHEDULE

CHURCH	TIME
Chapel of Saints Padre Pio and Philomena *Goodwill Corporate Center Building* *393 Senator Gil J. Puyat Avenue* *Makati City*	12:00 nn
Santuario de San Antonio *Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:00 am
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish *N. Garcia corner Kalayaan Avenue Bel-Air II* *Makati City*	6:30 am
Sto. Domingo Church *National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary* *Quezon Avenue, Quezon City*	6:30 am
Sta. Teresita Parish *43 Kanlaon Street, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City*	6:00 am
St. John Bosco Parish *Arnaiz Street, Makati City, Metro Manila*	6:30 am
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish *M.H. Del Pilar corner A. Flores* *Ermita, Manila*	12:15 pm
Holy Family Chapel *G/F V-Mall, Greenhills Shopping Center* *San Juan, Metro Manila*	12:00 nn

THE GOODWILL BOOKSTORE FAMILY, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF *WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PIOUS READERS TO PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.*

"Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened,
*and I will give you rest." – **Matthew 11:28***

OLIVER G. CUYUGAN

December 7, 1972 – November 21, 2007

Beloved son of **Castor 'Jojie' Cuyugan, Jr. & Sabina Cuyugan**; beloved brother of **Melody Daswani, Ian Russelle Cuyugan, Erin Patrick Cuyugan** and **Kristine Cuyugan**.

His loving children **Juan Carlo, Miguel Alfonso** and **Gabriel Lorenzo**; nieces **Kopie, Ysl, Yra, Kishi** and **Angela**; brother-in-law **Vishal Daswani**; sister-in-law **Katrina Cuyugan**; cousins; other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Superior Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

In Loving Memory

on the 1st Death Anniversary of

ADELINA A. ZABALLERO

Her loving children, **David** and **Gold**, **Joey** and **Priscilla**, **Maria** and **Mike**, grandchildren, **Miguel**, **Gaby** and **Sophie** request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

The following Mass intentions will be offered today, November 23, 2007.

Parish of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary West Triangle, Q. C.	6:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Mount Carmel New Manila, Q. C.	6:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Mary the Queen Parish Greenhills, San Juan	6:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Sanctuario de San Jose Greenhills, San Juan	6:00 a.m., 6:15 p.m.
Christ the King Greenmeadows, San Juan	6:15 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio Forbes Park, Makati	6:15 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
San Pedro Bautista Del Monte, Q. C.	6:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

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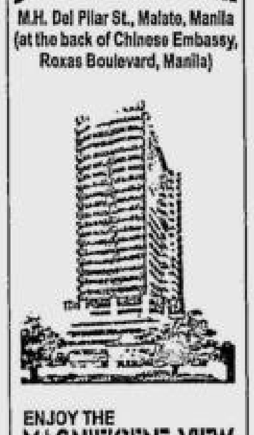
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE SPOUSES RAMON AND ESTHER MADRID HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AS PER DOC. No. 80, PAGE No. 17, BOOK No. I, SERIES OF 2007, BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. BINGLE B. TALATALA OF MAKATI CITY AND AS PER DOC. No. Ack-07-3938, SERIES OF 2007, SERVICE No. 13426, BEFORE VICE CONSUL GINES JAIME RICARDO D. GALLAGA OF THE PHILIPPINE CONSULAR SERVICE, WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

(PDI--Nov. 9, 16 & 23, 2007)



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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **PANASONIC COMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES CORPORATION (PCPC)** with plant site at the Carmelray Industrial Park II (CIP II-SEZ) has filed with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) its application for **PIONEER STATUS** to be granted to its manufacture of super multi-drive (SMD), sub-assemblies and parts thereof, based on newness of product and technology, which if approved, will entitle the company to six (6) years of Income Tax Holiday. Said application has been officialy accepted and is under process in this office.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file with the PEZA his/her objections in writing and under oath, within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication.

Please direct your position papers/comments to the Enterprise Regulations Department of PEZA (Tel. Nos. 551-95-86 and 551-95-44; and Telefax: 551-34-56).

LILIA B. DE LIMA
Director General

(PDI - Nov. 23, 2007)

The World's No. 1 Selling Brandy*

Emperador Brandy is in a league all its own.
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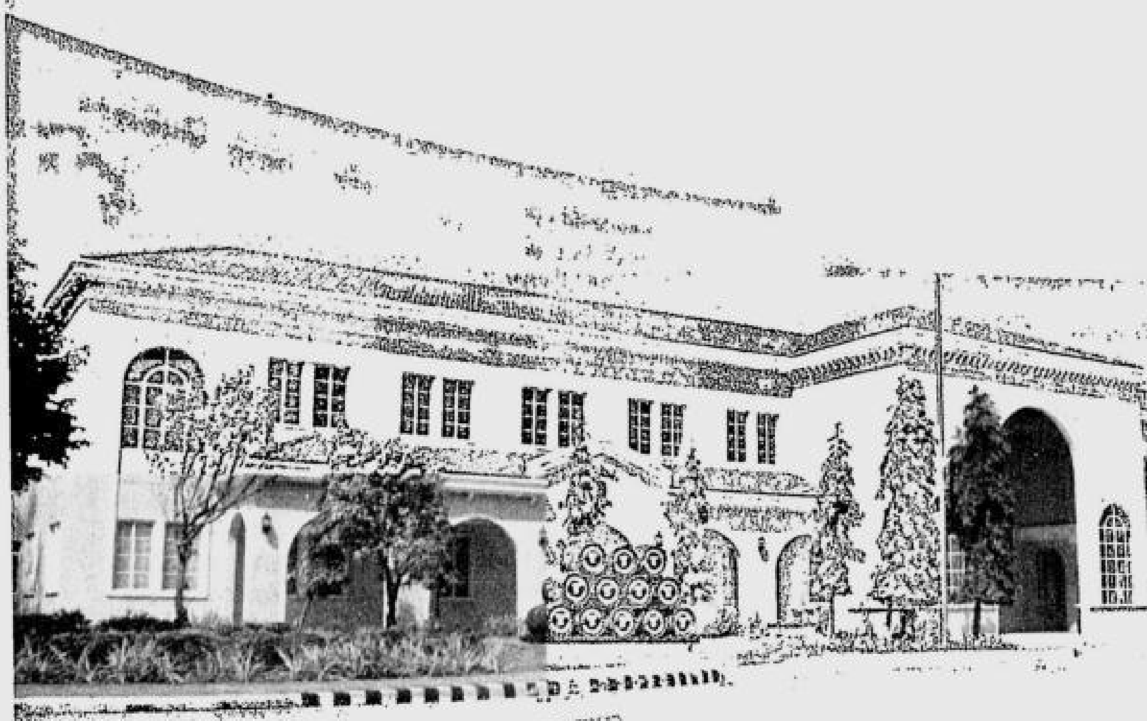

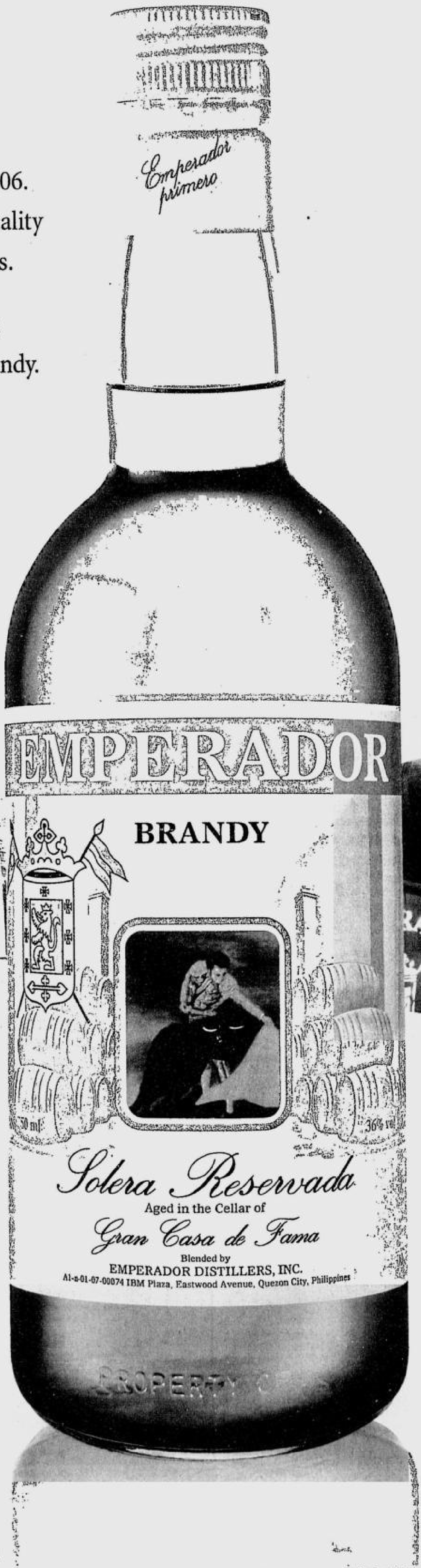
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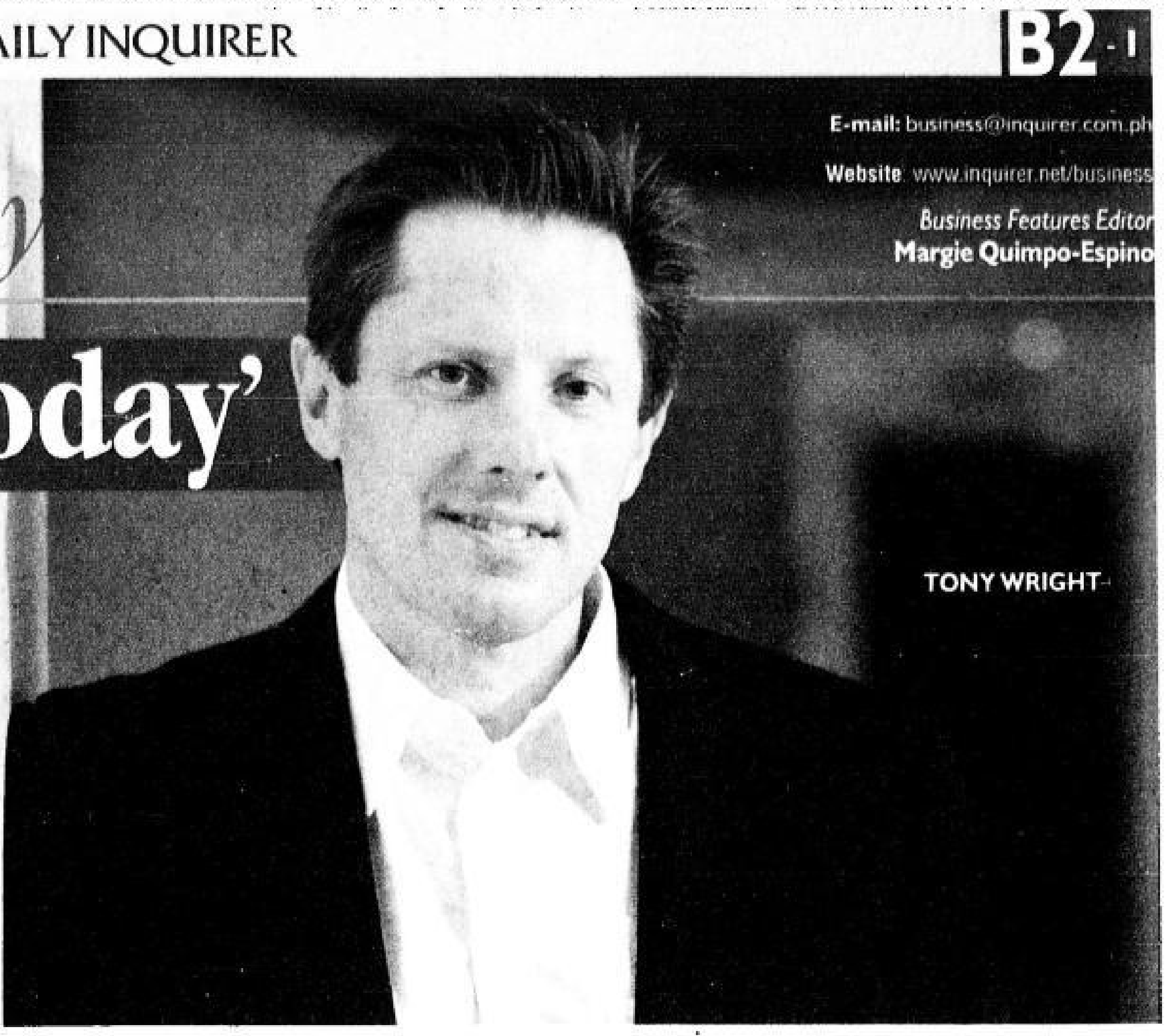
'What is an idea today'

Key to successful marketing is engaging the consumer



TONY WRIGHT

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

TONY WRIGHT IS THE CREATOR OF the Energizer Bunny commercial, considered by some advertising folks as one of the biggest ideas of the past century.

In an exclusive interview with Business Friday, Wright, who created the ad when he was 28 years old, recalls asking himself, "What would happen if this bunny didn't just stay in one commercial?"

The rest of his team loved the idea of creating an ad where the pink, shades-wearing Bunny, running on Energizer batteries, would be playing the drum continuously through other [not actual] ads. The message of the ad, of course, was to show the longevity of the batteries.

It first appeared in a TV commercial in 1989 and has become an icon that remains relevant today, 18 years later.

Wright is the chair of Lowe and Partners Worldwide, a London-based creative advertising agency, with clients that include Nokia, Unilever and Johnson & Johnson.

Wright arrived in Manila earlier this week to give a talk at the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress in Subic from Nov. 21 to 24.

As the author of what has been termed as a "big idea," Wright was tasked to talk about "What is an idea in the 21st century?"

"It used to be a very simple business of producing TV commercials or newspaper ads, making commissions out of the ads ... But media [ad placements] has now become a separate business to the creation of ads. Advertising agencies are asking—what do we do?" he says.

Wright says the "ideas" of the '80s and the '90s are very different.

"It used to be that all the power belonged to marketers and agencies. The job of the consumers was to sit in front of the TV, watch the ads and buy," he adds.

But consumers now are different. And technology has changed consumer habits. Take the TV remote control for example.

Unlike in the past when one had to get up to switch channels to avoid a commercial, today, one only needs to press a button. Or take Tivo, the gadget that allows consumers to save their favorite TV shows minus the commercials. Tivo is very popular in the US and Europe.

But Wright says TV viewership is not dying. In fact, he cites statistics showing that viewership in the US and Europe is on the rise.

In the Philippines, TV viewing remains a vital part of Filipinos' lives, particularly those from the lower classes. Thus it remains a vital medium for mass-based consumer products.

But even the masses are not keen on watching commercials.

As Wright describes it, "I have to find a way for you to see my ad. I know you don't want to see my ad."

So the challenge is to find the right place to put out the ads.

One major development over the past few years is the inclusion of brands in movies or TV shows. Thus whenever there is a scene of an actor or actress using a computer, it's usually an Apple computer (whether all are paid for is not known).

Sponsorship of shows is also becoming common. In the Philippines, companies sponsor contests in popular noontime shows.

But Wright warns you cannot be too obvious in doing this. "You cannot get a can of Coke and hold it up to the camera."

But these things are not new. In fact it has been around for over 50 years. Soap operas got their name, for instance, because soap brands were behind them. The shows would be "Brought to you by. . ."

One of the keys to marketing these days, according to Wright, is getting the consumers to associate with the brand.

He mentions the strategy undertake by Charmin, the US toilet paper and wipe maker, a few years ago.

It is a well-known fact that it is very difficult to find a public toilet in New York so what Charmin did during one Christmas was set up several hundred portable toilets in the Times Square area and wrapped these with the Charmin logo.

"It did not have anything to do with any TV commercial but there was brand engagement," he says.

One consumer engagement which has irked some marketers is the parodies that consumers do to some commercials.

"They feel insulted that after spending millions to create the ads somebody makes fun of it, but it is actually the greatest gift for somebody to be interested in your work," he says.

He mentions the YouTube clips of kids showing the Mentos Coke Explosion (kids mix Mentos candies in Coke, put the mixture in closed containers, shake and throw—creating an explosion). The viewership of the clips and the number of kids doing it grew.

While it is not encouraged, and no ad agency, or client, would suggest such an activity, the fact is, it was a great brand engagement activity undertaken by consumers themselves.

He says Mentos embraced it and sponsored kids' activities. Coke took longer to embrace the "explosion" for marketing.

Wright says getting consumers engaged also requires "a different way of working and organizing our business."

"For owners of brands to do business, they need to be much less rigid. We need to be more human as marketers and we need to enjoy the fact that consumers are active."

After nearly three decades in the industry, Wright says he is still having fun. He feels Lowe is his last stop.

"I seem to have just stumbled into advertising," says the London-born ad executive. "It was not something you dream of going into."

He first thought of going into advertising when he met the brother of his best friend.

"He seems to be having fun in his work. He did not have to wear a suit and was driving a sports car. One day, I asked him—so what did you do today? He said, 'I had to think of new names for an orange juice.' I said I can do that."

Although his position these days is more on managing, Wright says, "I realized a couple of years ago I don't really enjoy the business when it's just managing. I like ideas, I like working on them. My job is attracting talents."

He says he will only quit advertising when he stops having fun, or when he decides to shift to political strategizing, which he has done for the US Democratic party.

But for now, the fun and diversity of the people in the advertising world—"only place where you find Harvard MBAs and taxi drivers and it's hard to predict who's going to be good at this"—is keeping him going ... and going ... and going.

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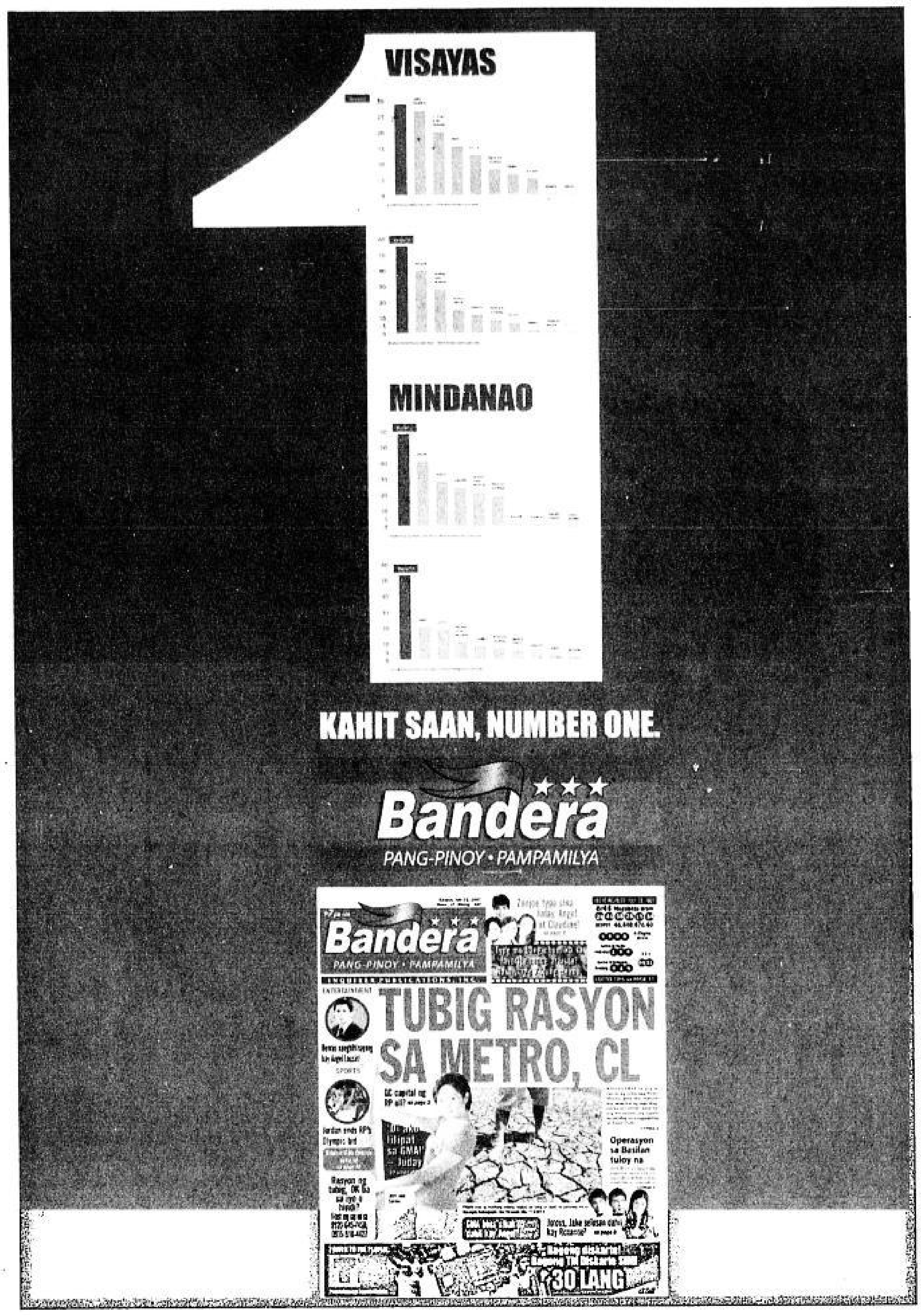

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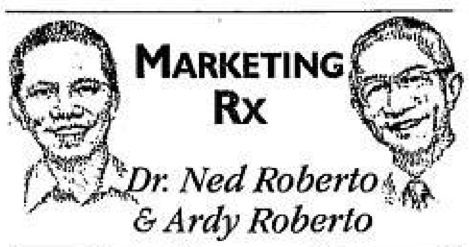
Martin Roll on Sony and PS3—the ongoing brand saga



Dr. Ned Roberto
& Ardy Roberto

WE CONTINUE OUR BRANDING SERIES with Martin Roll, author of Asian Brand Strategy. MarketingRx interviewed the brand-guru at the recently concluded Global Brand Forum held in Singapore.

Here's Roll:

Sony, one of the most iconic global brands, now seems to be the eternal brand-in-trouble. Sony has always been known for superior quality, world class design, cutting-edge technological products and constant innovation. But off late, Sony has been slipping from its ivory tower of global dominance in the consumer electronics and gaming industry.

The losses of the gaming unit alone, which contributes 14 percent of overall Sony sales, exceeded $1.9 billion in 2006 as against $72.5 million profits in 2005. Further, Sony's overall operating profit dropped 68 percent from its 2005 figure to $598 million in 2006. Much of this has to do with Sony's overwhelming reliance on the latest play station—the PS3.

The PS3 was probably one of the most awaited products in recent years. Customers around the world were waiting with bated breath to collect their PS3 from stores. But, right after the launch, Sony was shocked to see that the stocks were out and the demand was increasing. Even though this initially signaled the overwhelming positive response of customers, numbers at the end of the fiscal year painted a different picture: Sony did not even achieve its own internal target of 6 million units by March 31.

It managed to sell only 5.5 million units and only 3.6 million units reached the stores with the remaining either in transit or in warehouses. This performance has forced Sony to announce a conservative 11 million units for the year ending March 31, 2008. To add to Sony's woes, the competition is catching up with the market leader. Nintendo shipped 5.84 million units of its game console in the same time frame and Microsoft sold a total of 10.4 million units for the year ended March 31, 2006.

Even though Sony estimates to make money in 2009, it will be a very rough two years to survive in the very highly competitive gaming industry. One of the alternate routes being discussed is to discount the PS3, which is a 60-gigabyte hard disk drive console with a $599 price tag. The logic behind such a possible step is to increase the volume of sales immediately so as to stop the revenue sliding for the next two years.

These events bring to fore two core branding issues—the strategic role of branding and the impact of price discounts on the brand image. Branding is an organization wide discipline that encompasses the different functions within an organization. The stock out scenario immediately after the PS3 launch and the failure of 1.9 millions units to reach the stores in time are cases in point that demonstrate Sony's lack of comprehensive brand management by not managing production and distribution functions.

Similarly, the discounting option directly contradicts the very underlying premise of branding, which is competing on superior value and not on price. If Sony does discount the PS3 units, the short-term sales might surely soar up, but the effect of such price cuts on the brand image may be long lasting and disastrous. Instead of cutting prices to boost sales, Sony will benefit if the distribution, communications and different avenues to constantly engage its customers are taken care of.

Efficient management of multiple customer touch points is indeed a corner stone of branding. It will be interesting to watch how Sony handles this brand challenge.

Martin Roll (www.martinroll.com) is the CEO of VentureRepublic a strategic advisory firm on branding excellence and the author of Asian Brand Strategy. He is also a frequent guest lecturer at Insead. For more branding articles, visit Martin Roll's blo—there's lots of good stuff there for branding executives. Visit asianbrandstrategy.com if you want more. Keep your questions coming. Feedback at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net. God bless!

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How much does your firm spend on (useless) documents?

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MOST COMPANIES SPEND A FORtune for documents, and yet a substantial portion just goes to waste.

Fuji Xerox Philippines Inc. is offering large companies consultancy services on document management aimed at minimizing cost and wastage.

In an interview, Andrew Jewell, regional director of Xerox Office Services (a part of Fuji Xerox Asia Pacific), said the consultancy service targets large firms, a majority of which could not even quantify the amount of money they spend for documents in their operations.

"A study made by IDC (International Data Corp., a market research company) shows that documents—paper and electronic—account for 3 percent to 5 percent of Fortune 500 companies' revenues," said Jewell, who is based in Singapore.

Jewell was in Makati City, Wednesday for the senior executive breakfast forum, which Fuji Xerox organized for potential partners.

"With our consultancy service, we can help cut down this cost by 10 percent to 30 percent and thus protect our client's profits," he added. "In effect, we are contracted for savings."

Romerico S. Serrano, Fuji Xerox Philippines president, said in the same interview that Fuji Xerox's consultancy service on document management has been introduced in the country some three years ago although it has been available in the region in the past 10 years.

"We work with clients as if we own their business, whether or not they are using our machines or those of other manufacturers," Serrano explained.

He confirmed that many financial officers of companies were not aware of the costs of office documents as this was usually not reflected in corporate budgets.

FROM LEFT: ANDREW Jewell, Fuji Xerox regional director for Xerox Office Services; Rene Domingo of the Asian Institute of Management; Bing Tiongco-Quinto, Fuji Xerox Global Services general manager-AVP; and Romerico Serrano, Fuji Xerox Philippines Inc. president

Rene Domingo, a professor at the Asian Institute of Management, said the papers represented "undocumented costs" as these were usually mentioned as office supplies and consumables.

"But documents also entail time, which is wasted when reports are given to highly paid managers who do not need these reports," Domingo said. "How many minutes are spent reading reports just to find out if one really needs to be reading that report?"

Serrano said there were still a few domestic firms that have become aware of the need to address the cost of papers and documents.

However, he said there was a drive to reduce costs and wastage among firms and that there was a ready market for document management services as this provided an added option in protecting the bottom line.

Communicating in a world fascinated and enabled by new media

By Richard P. Burgos
Contributor

RADICALLY NEW FORMS OF COLLABoration and communication are possible today. Individuals can share ideas and work on projects together with unprecedented ease. Engineers and experts can team with those of another company. And any business can engage with the entire networked world to learn, to capture feedback, or to turn their customers into cocreators. At once daunting and daring, this challenge and opportunity will enable communicators to quickly create value for themselves in a global marketplace of expertise where communication skills are high-priced tickets.

And guess what? Everyone else is getting to be a writer, broadcaster, or publisher of sorts.

Pete Blackshaw, of Nielsen BuzzMetrics, a buzz analytics firm that helps brands measure, track and quantify consumer-generated media (CGM), points out that the fastest-growing media is one consumers create and share among themselves.

CGM is created by consumers from their own product or service experiences and presents long-lasting sources of influence to other customers/marketers because they are archived and searchable. Thus companies and brands are literally scrambling to listen to and leverage such media for their competitive advantage.

CGM includes blog entries, consumer e-mail feedback, message board posts, forum comments, personal websites and personal e-mail.

Moreover, CGM is rapidly adopting the same rich-media formats as online advertising. A few examples of CGM2, or consumer-generated multimedia are Moblogs or mobile-enabled blogs, photo sharing and tagging; blogs/personal videos or video based journals; and podcasting where consumers create their own radio broadcasts and make them available for others.

Cluetrain Manifesto

Unlike in the era of our PR demigods, consumers today are dictating the terms of media reach, frequency and impact. In 1999, some people put together the Cluetrain Manifesto which talked about how a powerful global conversation has begun. Through the Internet, people are discovering and inventing new ways to share relevant knowledge with blinding speed. As a direct result, markets are getting smarter—and getting smarter faster than most companies. They put together 95 theses which eight years later still sizzle and sting, among them:

- The Internet is enabling conversations among human beings that were simply not possible in the era of mass media.
- Public Relations does not relate to the public. Companies are deeply afraid of their markets.
- By speaking in language that is distant, uninviting, arrogant, they build walls to keep markets at bay.
- People in networked markets have figured out that they get far better information and support from one another than from vendors. So much for corporate rhetoric about adding value to commoditized products.
- There are no secrets. The networked market knows more than companies do about their own products. And whether the news is good or bad, they tell everyone.
- Companies must ask themselves where their corporate cultures end.
- If their cultures end before the community begins, they will have no market.
- To traditional corporations, networked conversations may appear confused, may sound confusing. But we are organizing faster than they are. We have better tools, more new ideas, no rules to slow us down.
- We are waking up and linking to each other. We are watching. But we are not waiting.

(The author is external relations manager, IBM Asean. This article is part of a series by the Philippine chapter of the International Public Relations Association (Ipra) to give something back to a profession that has been good to them by sharing their knowledge and experience with the younger and up and coming PR practitioners. Set up in 1955, Ipra is the world's premier organization for communications professionals, counting among its membership some 1,000 senior PR practitioners in 96 countries.)

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BUSINESS*Friday*

Accessorize with something good for the earth

THE DISPLAY WINDOWS at the Confetti boutiques are festooned with the reminder: "Reusable Bags Good for the Earth." On sale are folding shopping bags in fashionable metallics, that open up to hold a shoe box or groceries. There are brightly colored totes recycled from tarp billboards and streamers from past advertising campaigns at giveaway prices. Confetti also carries tarp bags from Mother Earth and Greenpine Print, nonprofits led by environmentalists Odette Alcantara & Binggirl Clemente who, providing designs and marketing assistance, have given livelihood to some marginalized communities in Marikina and Taytay.

The ladies fashion shoe chain has been trying to reuse and recycle as part of its business philosophy. In the '90s, (Confetti is 24 years old this year) its shoe boxes were made out of brown recycled cardboard. Suppliers were asked to deliver the boxes tied up with string (abaca) instead of the oil-based "straw." The handouts and reading materials in the classes of owner, Vicki Jardiolin, a professor of marketing at the UP College of Business Administration are printed on reused paper and stamped "Reuse paper and save trees." So are company internal memos, logbooks and vouchers; envelops are routinely readdressed. Good for the earth, saves quite a few centavos.

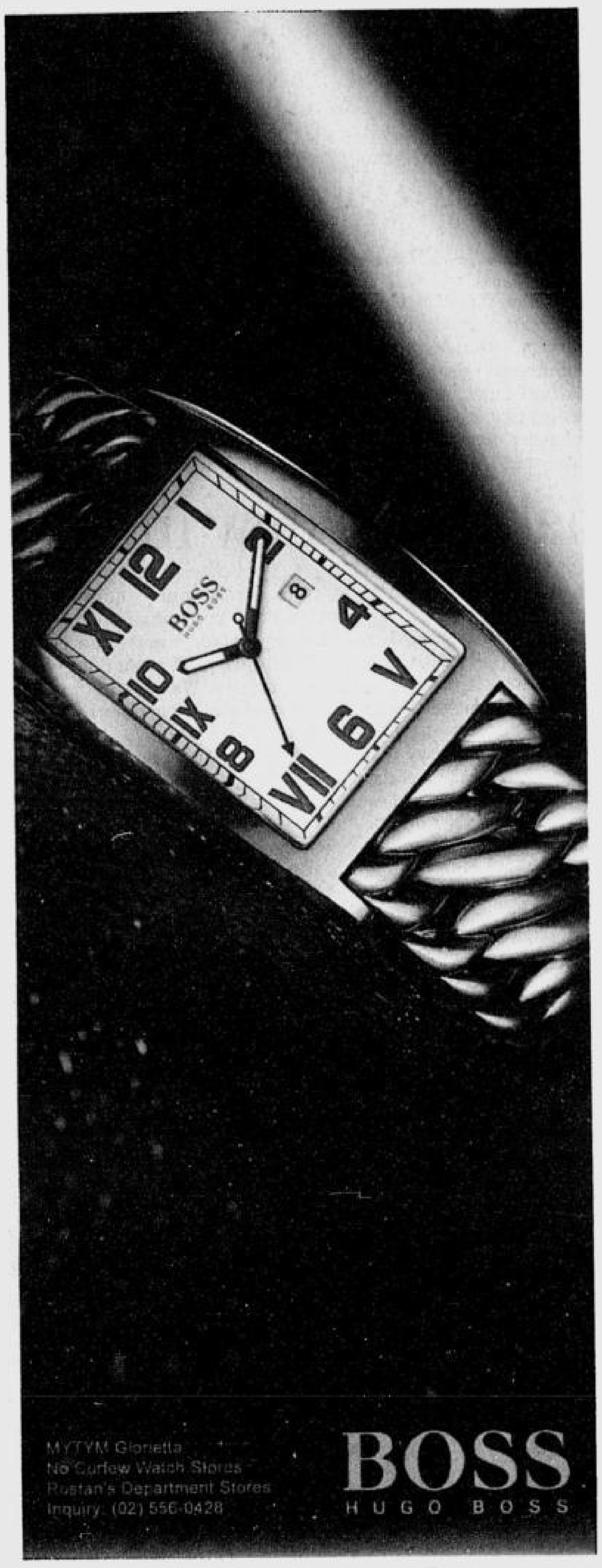
The Philippines, with the increased use of billboards and tarp banners, badly needs to recycle and reuse these materials. These tarps, uncollected, are left in unsightly tatters everywhere or pile up in the landfills and garbage mountains which, nonbiodegradable, they will stay for hundreds of years.

The reusable shopping bags are an innovative, practical and cost-effective solution. Moving the discarded tarps into the recycling stream, these long-life, multitrip bags are designed to reduce use of throw-away plastic bags given away by supermarkets and other retail outlets. "Wastes online" informs that the production of these plastic bags use significant amounts of resources, water, fossil fuel, both as raw material and energy for the manufacturing process. Its studies show that these add up in garbage dumps and are about 57 percent of litter in the beaches.

Confetti echoes the cry, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" and adds "Look great accessorizing with something good for the earth!"

REUSABLE bags recycled from outdated Confetti streamers. Also shown are bags from Greenpine Print made out of election banners.

CONFETTI'S folding reusable shopping bags. Fashioned from materials in metallics and trendy colors, they fold up neatly in a handbag and open up to hold many items.



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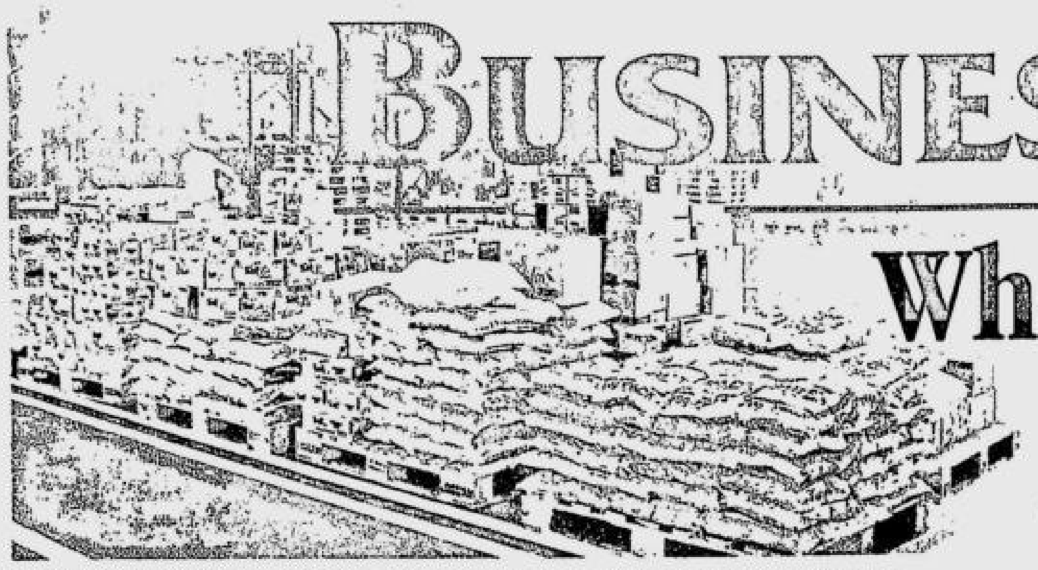

MULTINATIONAL firms in fast-moving consumer goods industry leading the way in supply chain management

What goes into getting the products to customers

Supply chain management daunting in poor areas

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE CHALLENGE TO MANUfacturing and retail companies seems simple enough at first glance: get products to the customers at the right time, right quantity and at the cheapest possible cost.

But in the Philippines, costs immediately pile up as products move from the manufacturing facility to the retail outlets where consumers can actually go and buy the item.

This has inevitably made supply chain management a daunting challenge for major corporations in developing countries like the Philippines, which are plagued by bad roads and the dire lack of key infrastructure facilities such as bridges, ports and airports.

Being an archipelago does not help their cause because manufacturers and retailers have to contend with having to distribute goods from island to island, requiring the use of all modes of transportation—road, sea and air.

All these translate to higher costs.

Also a point to consider is that in the Philippines, like other developing countries, the retail trade is still very much traditional with easily half of the goods sold through the mom and pop stores (*sari-sari* stores), especially in areas outside the urban centers, and not through the modern supermarkets, grocery or department stores.

These neighborhood sari-sari stores want products delivered more frequently but at smaller quantities, posing yet another key challenge to manufacturers and retailers who are keeping one eye on potential customers and the other on the costs associated with bringing products to them.

All these factors mean that ably managing costs along the supply chain has become a major competitive advantage for those who have mastered the art and science of supply chain management in the Philippines.

Multinational companies in the fast-moving consumer goods industry are understandably leading the way in supply chain management because they have been in the game far longer than the local companies.

Michael Ong, country logistics manager of Procter and Gamble, says in an interview that in the Philippines, most multinational FMCG (fast moving consumer goods) companies have been into supply chain management for years and have entire organizations working on it.

And while the Philippines is not yet at par with those in the United States and Europe, it is fast catching up in the application and practice of supply chain management together with other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Ong says that for P&G, the lack of infrastructure poses the greatest challenge to quickly and efficiently delivering goods around the country.

"Transit/travel times to the islands south of Manila are both lengthy and costly. Versus comparable neighbors, freight cost going across the country is significantly higher just because we need to cross the seas. We also have limited highway infrastructure and our ports are not as efficient and as advanced as most of our neighbors," Ong adds.

Emmanuel Bautista, managing director of IDS Logistics Philippines, which distributes products for many of the local FMCG companies, adds that given the geography of the Philippines with its 7,000 islands, distributing goods requires the use of multi-modal transportation systems and the establishment of multiple stocking points in key cities.

"Metro Manila accounts for the lion's share of consumer demand. Nevertheless, our Visayas and Mindanao regions are not insignificant and, as evidenced by the number of new shopping malls, the level of sophistication is rising. To be a successful player in the country, one requires a presence in the Visayas and Mindanao," Bautista says.

In the Philippines, costs pile up as products move from factories to retail outlets

Because of the high cost of managing the supply chain, companies in the Philippines are then hard pressed to urgently find ways to cut down costs.

One way is to outsource the management of parts of the supply chain—like trucking and warehousing—to third-party companies who can leverage on economies of scale and expertise to cut costs.

Alfredo Juan Franco of Unilever says that in the case of Unilever, it has tapped companies such as IDS Logistics to help move its products across the country.

He says distribution requires a particular expertise especially these days when the industry is faced by a contraction in shipping capacity by as much as 40 percent.

This strikes fear in the hearts of manufacturing and retailing companies considering

WHAT /B3-2

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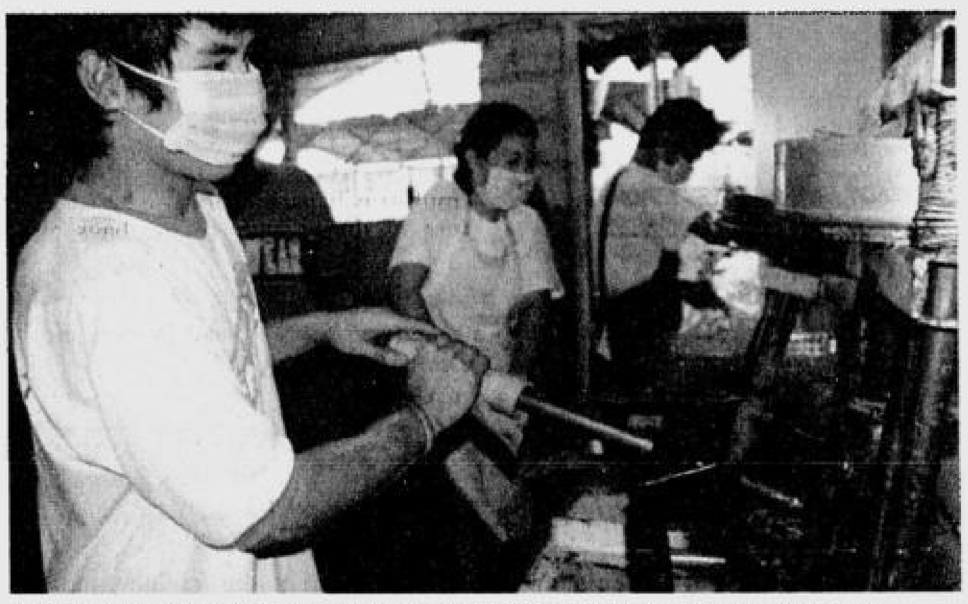


THE PRODUCTION plant in Barangay Sto. Niño, San Pablo City, employs seven workers. Coco Natur hopes to give more jobs to the members of the community.

PHOTOS BY NIÑA CATHERINE CALLEJA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Where OFWs' and coconut farmers' needs meet

By Niña Catherine Calleja
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PABLO CITY—OVERSEAS FILIPINO workers always worry about how to save money and where to put their savings. Coconut farmers constantly complain of dropping coconut prices.

One solution offered by Coco Natur Overseas Filipino Worldwide and Producers Cooperative is the establishment of a cooperative and the setting up of a community-based coconut enterprise where OFWs could invest their money.

Coco Natur built its first enterprise, with coconut as the main source of livelihood, in Barangay Sto. Niño, San Pablo City.

WASTE products like the coco fiber and coco shell are used for the products' packaging.

It produces and markets virgin coconut oil (VCO) and its derivative products such as soaps, massage oil, lotion, and shampoo. It plans to produce coconut flour and coconut vinegar.

The plant processes all parts of the coconut—including the supposed waste products like the coco fiber and coco shell—for the products' packaging.

Coco Natur plans to multiply its community-based enterprise in 10 barangays in San Pablo City and in other coconut communities in Laguna and nearby provinces like Quezon.

Each of the chosen communities would need an initial capital of P60,000 to start the production, says Jean Tanalega, Coco Natur assistant general manager.

In the case of Sto. Niño, P74,000 was used for equipment like grater, presser, fermenting drums, and other facilities used for processing VCO.

The plant does not only increase the income of the farmers but also creates more jobs for the relatives of the farmers.

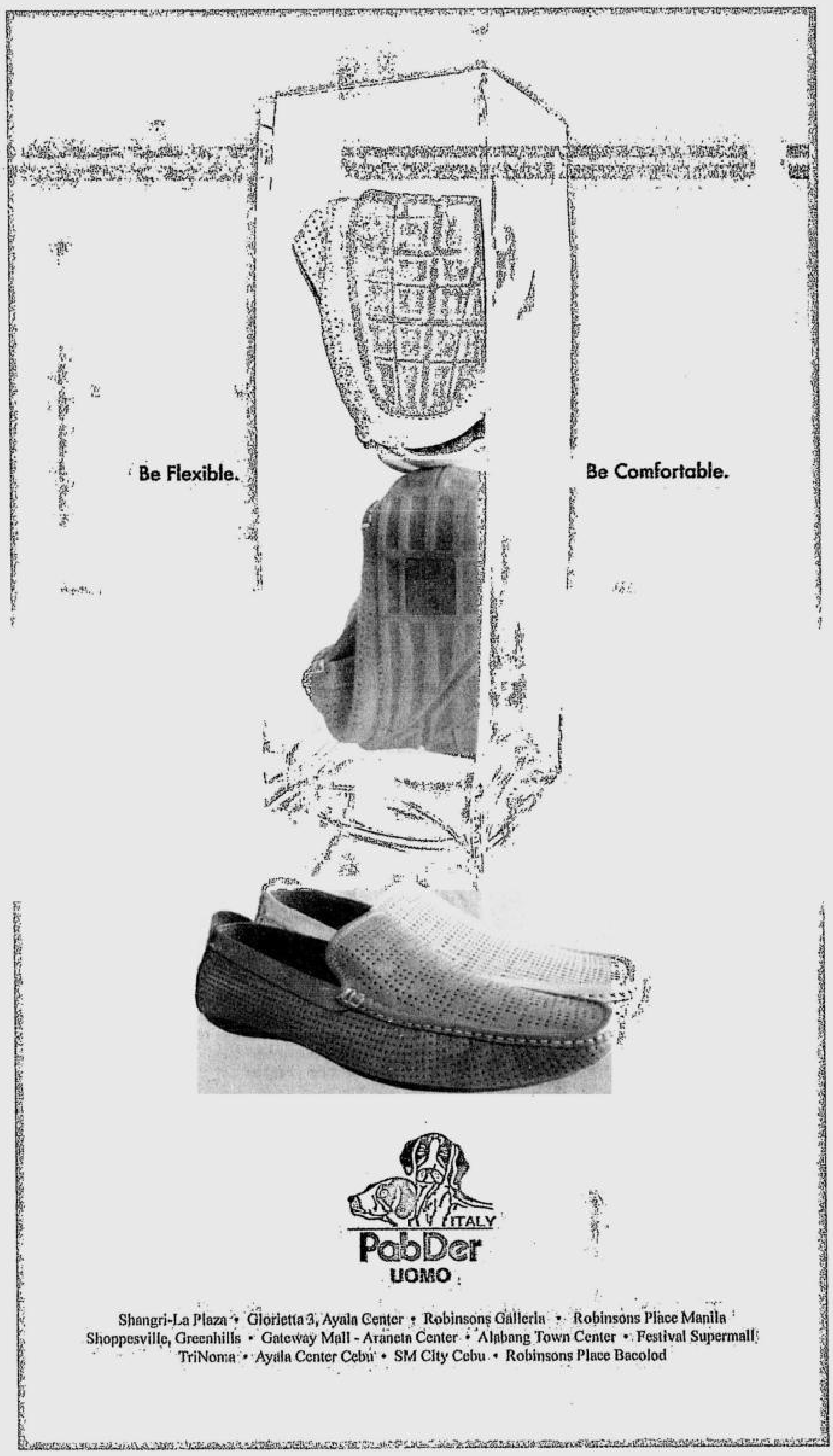
At present, the Sto. Niño production plant employs seven regular workers—all residents of the barangay.

Tanalega says the operation of Coco Natur would not be possible without the funds coming from the OFWs.

Developments

Coco Natur was formed in February 2006 by Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities' Initiatives Inc., a non-government organization for OFWs and their families, which also initiated the

WHERE/ B3-2



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Where OFWs' and coconut farmers' ...

From page B3-1

project, with the support of an organization of coconut farmers and the local government here.

Prior to the formation of Coco Natur, Atikha launched a campaign mobilizing the resources of the OFWs to assist the development of the community-based coconut enterprises.

A "benefit dinner" organized in the United States enabled Atikha to raise P500,000. Atikha was also able to get grants and loans from the US.

For one year, Coco Natur focused on product and market development and training residents in coconut communities.

It was only in October this year that a village, Barangay Sto. Niño, adopted the project and has been transformed into a so-called community-based enterprise.

Community-based enterprise means members of the community manage the operations of the business from production to marketing. The whole community gets a share of the profit.

Marga Roman, Coco Natur marketing director, says this project gives poor communities and OFWs hope and promise.

"In five years, this will be a P5-million company, supporting at least 200 farmers in each community," she claims.

Greater income

Ruben Garcia, president of the Pederasyon ng mga Magsasaka at Magniniyog sa Lungsod ng San Pablo (Federation of Coconut Farmers and Workers in San Pablo City), believes that the income of coconut farmers under the community-based enterprise would significantly jack up.

The federation is composed of over 500 active members from 10 organized barangays.

Garcia says many small-time coconut farmers are at the losing end because they are compelled to transact with middlemen and traders who would buy and retail their nuts.

"They will buy the nuts at a P5 price while these are sold in the market usually at P12," he explains in Filipino.

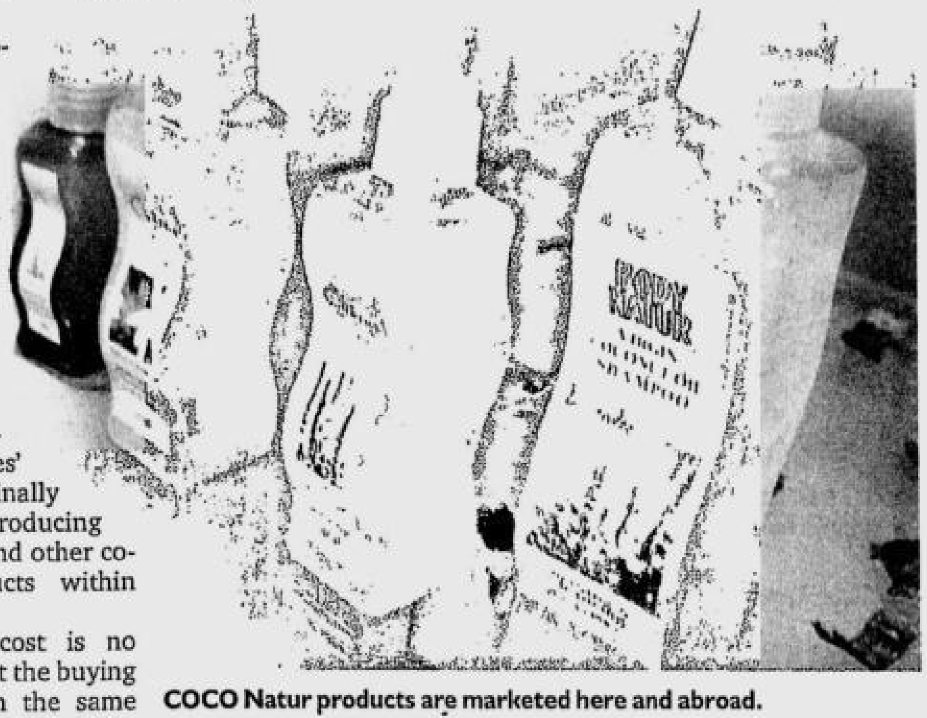
Other farmers spend P400-P500 for trucking fee to transport the nuts to factories producing coco-based products.

"The farmers here don't really earn much. Worse, the price of coconut fluctuates from time to time, depending on the supply," Garcia adds.

He emphasizes that it is to the farmers' and their families' advantage that finally they have a plant producing virgin coconut oil and other coconut-based products within the community.

"Transportation cost is no longer a problem yet the buying price is very much the same with that in the factories," he says.

TO AVOID wastes, Coco Natur uses coconut parts considered wastes like coco fiber for handicrafts



COCO Natur products are marketed here and abroad.

COCO Natur soap

Expansion

Roman notes that before, fund raising was their way to get resources and capital but now they have come up with a scheme of getting investment through shares of stocks in the cooperative.

"An investor can have a minimum of 100 shares and maximum of 2,500 shares at P100 per share," she explains.

Roman says they are encouraging OFWs to invest here.

"When they come back here, they have earned just by investing their money, plus their investment has helped their community," she adds.

Coco Natur has also a program on direct selling wherein the dependents of OFWs will be trained in the marketing of the coconut-based products.

Roman says they also teach about sales and entrepreneurship.

Coco Natur has also tapped the export market.

Roman tells the INQUIRER that almost P500,000 worth of sample products reached Europe. They are now trying to meet the purchase order of 16 tons of VCO.

"We are now eager to break in to North America and Japan," she says, adding some *balikbayans* are also buying their products.

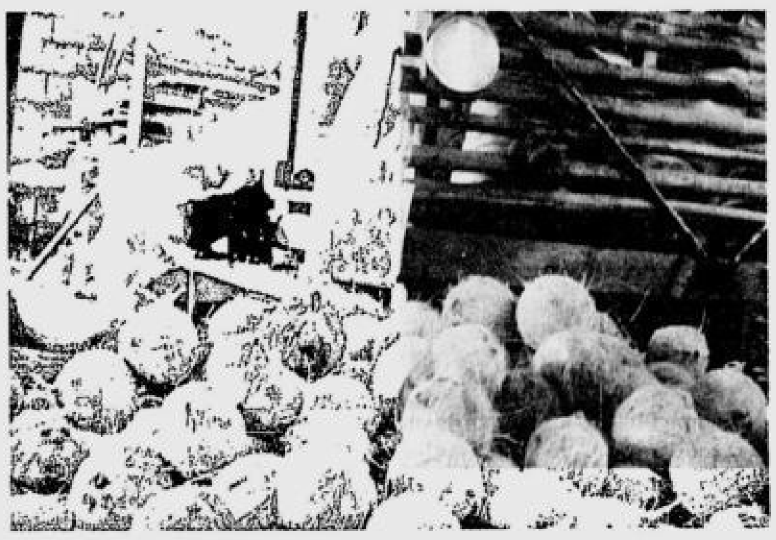
Roman stresses that they are still creating awareness that Coco Natur exists.

The market's recognition and acceptability will make them sell, she says.

But, according to her, Coco Natur remains to be a social enterprise where everybody benefits.

"It should always be a fair trade. We cannot lower our prices and compromise the welfare of the farmers and workers just to be competitive with other VCO products," she says.

(Contact details: Marga Roman, 09204677887. The office is located at Coco Natur Likha at Kabuyahan Room, OFW Center, Main Avenue, Green Valley Subdivision, San Francisco, San Pablo City, Laguna)



THE PRODUCTION plant does not only increase farmers' income but also creates more jobs for their relatives.

CANNES LIONS
LAUNCHED
DESIGN CATEGORY IN 2008

RODNEY FITCH CBE TO CHAIR FIRST DESIGN LIONS JURY

London, 12 November 2007 – The organisers of the 55th Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival are pleased to announce the launch of Design Lions in 2008. Adding Design will further enhance and complement the celebration of creativity at the week-long event that already includes the categories of Press, Outdoor, Film, Media, Sales Promotion, Cyber, Direct, Titanium, Integrated and Radio advertising.

Design Lions will honour the creative and innovative use of design for the brand and product communication and development. Categories will broadly include Packaging Design, Brand Identity and Environmental Design.

Entries will be rewarded for Creativity, Originality, Execution and Consumer Engagement. The winners of the first ever Design Lions and Grand Prix will be honoured in Cannes on Wednesday 18 June 2008 alongside the Press and Cyber Lions winners.

Rodney Fitch CBE, Chairman & CEO of Fitch Worldwide, will chair the inaugural Design Lions jury. During a distinguished career in design that has spanned nearly forty years, Rodney has served as a member of the Design Council and as a past president of both the Chartered Society of Designers and D&AD. In 2005 he was inducted into the Legion of Honour and Hall of Fame of the American Institute of Store Planners, the most prestigious award in retail design for an individual, and in 2006 was a finalist for the Prince Philip Designer's Prize. He was awarded a CBE in 1990 for services to the British Design industry.

Rodney is also active in the development of design education and is currently a senior governor of the University of the Arts, London, the largest collegiate institution of its kind in Europe, and supervises an MA course in Retail design at the Hoegeschool Academy in Rotterdam, Holland. He is also Chairman of V & A Enterprises, the Victoria and Albert museum's commercial business.

Rodney founded the Fitch agency in 1972 and now has 19 studios in 12 countries around the globe. His work embraces brand development, packaging design and corporate branding, and specialises in delivering "consumer experience" in the retail environment across all retail sectors. Clients worldwide include Amazon, Bentley Motors, BP, Dunlop, DHL, Hewlett-Packard, IKEA, L'Orèal, Lego, Marks & Spencer, Nokia, Microsoft, P&G, Starbucks, Toys 'R' Us and Unilever.

Design Lion Trophy

Welcoming the appointment, Philip Thomas, Festival CEO, said, "We are truly honoured to have Rodney Fitch chair the first Design Lions jury. With such a long and illustrious background in design, working with a broad portfolio of clients from all over the world, the inaugural Design Lions competition could not be in better hands."

Rodney Fitch commenting on his role said, "I had often wondered why Cannes never honoured design; for isn't design the very platform on which so much creative endeavour is based? Now that the world has come to its senses, I'm greatly honoured, and not a little humbled to be the Design Jury's inaugural President and am confident the work we shall see will be inspirational and help make these Lion roar even louder."

Information regarding categories and how to submit entries to the Design Lions competition will be available from 2 February 2008 at www.canneslions.com.

CRAIG DAVIS NAMED 2008 CANNES LIONS FILM AND PRESS JURY PRESIDENT

London, 12 November 2007 – Craig Davis, Worldwide Chief Creative Officer, JWT will chair both the Film and Press juries at the 55th Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival.

Born and raised in Australia, Craig stumbled into the world of advertising after graduating from AWARD (Australian Writers and Art Directors') School in 1987 following stints as a barman, law student, busker, finance broker, turf cutter, biscuit maker, fruit picker, fashion show producer and truck driver. He also learnt how to sail on the local lake, eventually winning national championships and representing Australia internationally. Over the next several years Craig developed his own agency, which became one of Australia's most awarded independents.

In 1999 Craig left Australia to become Executive Creative Director of Saatchi & Saatchi Singapore and in 2000 was promoted to Regional Executive Creative Director based in Hong Kong. Under his leadership Saatchi & Saatchi became the most awarded agency network in Asia and was named 'Creative Network of the Year' in 2002. In 2003, Craig helped Saatchi & Saatchi win both AdAge and Adweek's 'Global Agency of the Year' and was named Asia's 'Advertising Person of the Year'.

The following year Craig moved to London to join JWT as the creative leader for Europe, the Middle East and Africa and in 2005 was made JWT's Chief Creative Officer, Worldwide. Since joining JWT the network's creative reputation has improved significantly and the Cannes Lions tally has more than tripled.

In 2007 Craig became the first guest editor of the Gunn Report and was inducted into the Campaign Brief Hall of Fame. He is a frequent speaker at industry forums, is on the advisory board for the Berlin School of Creative Leadership, and has judged at numerous regional and international award shows, including Cannes Titanium in 2006.

"The fact that Craig has experienced different cultures, is in a global leadership position and has demonstrated a clear track record of creative achievement, makes him ideally suited to be the Cannes Film and Press jury president in 2008", said Terry Savage, Festival Chairman.

Craig Davis commenting on his appointment said, "Great creativity can and does come from anywhere. What I love about Cannes is that it recognises this truth across multiple disciplines on a scale unmatched by any other award festival. It's an honour to be leading the search for the world's best creativity in film and press advertising in 2008."

Craig lives in London with his wife and is teaching his three children to sail.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

CANNES LIONS
Official Festival Representative

What goes into ...

From page B3-1

that shipping is still the cheapest way to bring bulk cargo to the Visayas and Mindanao.

"Now, there's a mad scramble for capacity. We now have to book shipping schedules in advance even if we are not exactly sure of the volume," Franco says.

But because it partners with other companies to help in the distribution, Unilever can concentrate on other links in the chain where it is more of an expert, such as in predicting consumer demand and inventory control.

"We look at the organization now as an integrated process and that we're one team. This was triggered by recognition that we are not function focused, but process focused," he says.

"This recognition is the only way we can grow the business and serve our customers well."

P&G's Ong says integrating the process remains an obstacle to companies seeing to properly manage the supply chain.

He says that if there is a weak link in most supply chains in the Philippines, it is in systems integration.

"The left hand needs to know what the right is doing. Information flow should be able to follow product flow seamlessly. This can be challenging in long supply chains where there are many "hand-offs" and where multiple players are involved," Ong says.

Failure to coordinate will likely result in significant cost overruns or going out of stock.

As IDS' Bautista explains, supply chain management starts with the planning process to forecast future demand for products and determine the right level of inventory.

The results of these processes drive decisions made in the sourcing of either raw materials, packaging materials or even finished goods. What follows is manufacturing and then finally order fulfillment where the products finally go to the consumers.

"The level by which local manufacturing firms develop and execute their supply chain strategies varies. It is accepted however that in today's competitive environment, 'Customer is King'," Bautista says.

"They demand a level of service far greater than in previous years, while expecting competitive rates. To survive therefore, companies are moving fast to adopt best practices seen around the world," he says.

Doing so even means collaborating with competitors to remain competitive.

Unilever's Franco relates how a number of local companies have come together under the vision of "efficient customer response" to find ways to together cut costs.

One example is how local companies agreed to standardize the size of the delivery palettes to make it easier for supermarkets, groceries to receive and load goods into their stores instead of having a different size for each manufacturer.

This has resulted in faster turnaround time and lower costs.

He says the industry continues to look for similar ways of working together to achieve the common goal of serving customers the best way possible.

New fund to help turn ideas into reality

THERE ARE A LOT OF FRESH AND EXCITING business ideas out there, hidden in the minds of young entrepreneurs and budding marketers, waiting to be discovered and nurtured. Most of the time however, financial constraints force these ideas into hibernation—or worse, extinction.

Aware of this dilemma, Mansmith & Fielders Inc. (www.mansmith.net), an advocacy-based company into sales and marketing consultancy, is reaching out to young entrepreneurs through the creation of the Mansmith Blue Freedom Fund. This fund is the first-ever venture capital fund in the country targeting those who want to start their own business using the "Blue Ocean Strategy" but lack financial freedom to turn their ideas into a reality.

"In the years that we have been doing training and consultancy to companies and clients, we learned that they are not only asking us to just train them about marketing and sales strategy, but to help them grow and succeed. With this, we conceptualized the Mansmith Blue Freedom Fund as part of our advocacy aside from recognizing excellent practitioners and inspiring young marketers to excel in their profession," said Mansmith president and CEO Chiqui Escareal-Go.

The Blue Ocean Strategy is the best-selling book of Dr. W. Kim Chan and Dr. Renee Mauborgne of INSEAD, the world's second largest business school based in France.

"Blue Ocean Strategy helps corporate executives and entrepreneurs find new market space, instead of competing head-on via destructive price and promo war. It targets non-users and consumers using alternative products and services. It helps find both differentiation and low-cost in a firm's value proposition, boosting the value provided to both the buyers as well as the firm," said Chiqui.

The recipient of the Mansmith Blue Freedom Fund can be an existing business or a start-up business. Mansmith will provide a seed capital plus free consultation to the chosen recipient. The proponents of the Blue Ocean Strategy idea must first submit an application using the format indicated in the Mansmith website (www.mansmith.net).

"We shall be very strict with the standards and choosy with the project. It must be a true Blue Ocean Strategy idea and must show evidence that a 35 percent return on equity is feasible. The proponent must have proven leadership and execution skill with unquestionable integrity," said Chiqui. She added that the benefits that will be reaped by the recipient are numerous, among them, the fund does not require collateral or interest payment.

The search for the project that the Mansmith Blue Freedom Fund will cover is now ongoing. Should there be more interesting projects, Mansmith shall source additional funds from people interested in the venture capital funding.

For more information, call 722-2318 / 727-7142/ 0918-8116888 or e-mail: info@mansmith.net. Visit website at www.mansmith.net.

FEATURES IN BRIEF

DOT tours increase potential tourism target gains

THE STEADILY increasing tourist arrivals from North America is expected to continue in 2008 and in the years to come. The success is attributed to the familiarization tours sponsored by the Department of Tourism for media, wholesalers, and retail travel agents particularly the graduates of Philippine Specialist Program from the United States and Canada.

Designed to promote the different top tourist destinations in the Philippines, the familiarization tours received positive reviews from its participants who have pledged their commitment to intensely promote and sell Philippine tourism products to their clients in North America. The fam tour project is aimed at encouraging more travel agents and equipping them to sell the Philippines as a safe and wholesome holiday destination for the North American market.

"We often invite Filipino-American and Filipino-Canadian groups to visit the country. By experiencing first-hand the positive developments in the Philippines, including our revitalized tourism programs and fresh business opportunities, we are hoping that they could become Philippine tourism advocates when they return to the United States and Canada," Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano explained.

"The general conduct of the tour is to familiarize participants with the facilities and amenities offered in such establishments to help them create Philippine packages for their clients," said Team North America head Ma. Corazon Jorda-Apo.

Familiarization tours help boost Philippine tourism promotions because it provides foreign travel professionals a first-hand experience of the country.

"More than promoting the country as a world-class tourist destination, we are also marketing the Philippines as a great venue for business, investment and retirement opportunities," said Durano. Indeed with the latent success of the familiarization tour project, that objective is steadily being fulfilled.

Visit www.experiencephilippines.ph for more details about DOT's tourism program.

The Coffee Beanery by Cravings offers franchising

THE COFFEE Beanery by Cravings is now offering a franchise opportunity for enterprising individuals, start-up corporations or even those who are foraying for the first time in the coffee shop business.

"Backed by the same expertise and spirit behind the well-loved Cravings Restaurant and Bakeshop, The Coffee Beanery continues its tradition of quality products and excellent customer service," said Karl C. Velhagen, The Coffee Beanery's business development manager.

Starting out as a coffee bar in Cravings outlets in 1993, The Coffee Beanery has since come into its own as a free-standing coffee shop a decade later. Existing branches are located at the Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Mall, Commonwealth and Banawe Street (both in Quezon City), and Robinsons Place Pioneer.

Outside of Manila, The Coffee Beanery has successfully launched its coffee shops in Mandaue City, Cebu and in Naga City, Bicol.

The Coffee Beanery will be re-launched to the public as "The Coffee Beanery by Cravings," to highlight its strength as an affiliate of the Cravings Group.

Owning a franchise of The Coffee Beanery requires a minimum space of 60 square meters.

"Unlike most coffee shops which practice self-service, customers of The Coffee Beanery are served by professional waiters. This is a hallmark of the Cravings brand," noted Velhagen.

With its capability to come out with a menu selection, The Coffee Beanery will also be introducing something new for loyal customers to enjoy. "We are re-doing our pasta and sandwich line, which will have a Filipino twist. The sandwiches will be more Filipino but will still jive with a coffee shop environment," added Velhagen.

Supporting The Coffee Beanery are chef-graduates from the prestigious Center for Culinary Arts, Manila (CCA, Manila) who are conducting the R&D for the new Filipino signature items. New products from the bakeshop will also be introduced.

Prospective franchisers are also assured that they will receive excellent training for their staff. The Coffee Beanery baristas undergo an intensive and structured espresso training program. They are trained on the proper use of equipment, following strict specifications in making the coffee, and customer service.

For more information on The Coffee Beanery franchise, call (0917) 808-0953, 426-6681 local 107 or 118, or e-mail franchise@cravingsgroup.com. Visit also www.beanerygroup.com.

DHL opens service center in Subic

DHL, THE world's leading express and logistics company, has recently opened the DHL Service Center at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. The new Subic service center will make DHL's industry-leading express and logistics services more accessible to corporate and retail clients in Subic, Clark and Bataan and the Buffer Triangle.

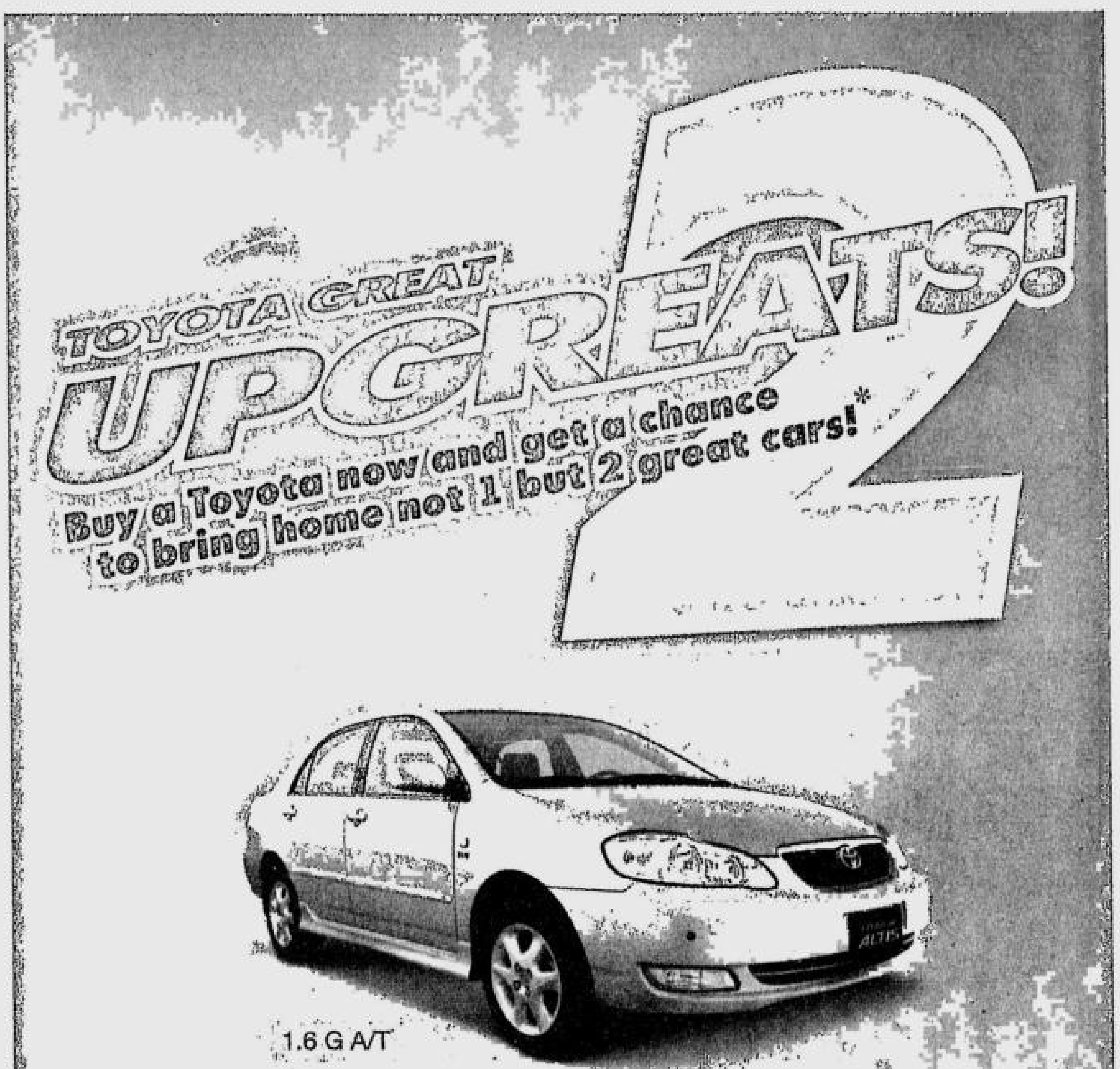
Super Bowl of China opens in Robinsons Place

SUPER Bowl of China, a Chinese casual dining place, opened its newest branch at the first level of the newly opened Midtown Wing of Robinsons Place Manila.

With a seating capacity of 142, the new restaurant serves Super Bowl of China's signature dishes.

Its opening is part of the aggressive expansion efforts to make Chinese cuisine more accessible to a wider segment of the populace.

Super Bowl of China's other branches are located at Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati; Jupiter Street, Makati; Festival Mall, Alabang; SM San Lazaro; SM City North Edsa; SM Megamall Megastrip; Blue Wave, Marikina; Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao; Blue Wave Macapagal Avenue, Pasay City; SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City; SM San Fernando Pampanga and at The Trinoma Mall, North Edsa. The affiliated Big Buddha Restaurant is at the 2nd level of Greenbelt 3 in Ayala Center Makati City.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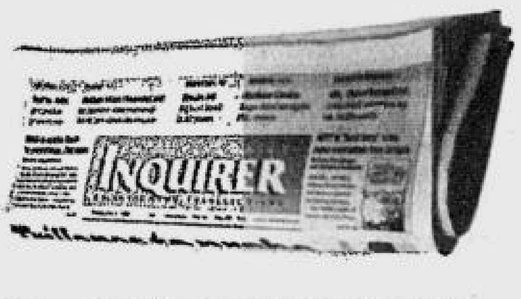

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Face to face with the Shop

The Face Shop is the top Korean cosmetics brand in the world

ACHIEVE a soft and mysterious look with defined eyes that are smoldering yet far from overstated.

By Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

A POSITION BASED ON naturalism, quality products, affordability and variety has resulted in astounding success for The Face Shop, a Korean brand of make-up, skincare plus hair and body products that was founded only four years ago.

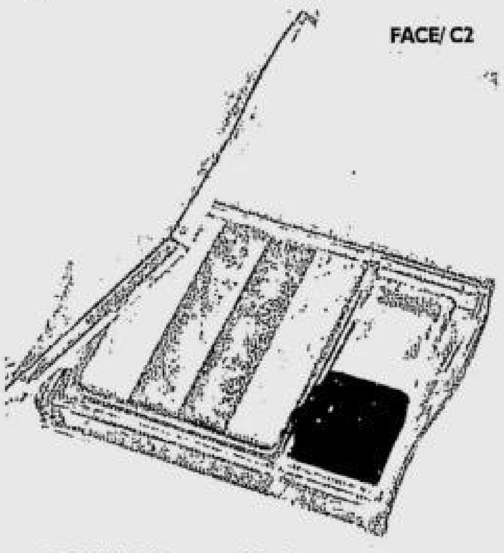
In that short span of time, the brand has established a global presence in 18 countries, including the United States, opening a total of 900 stores with an expansion rate of 100 stores every six months.

In the Philippines alone, Face Shop has opened 20 stand-alone boutiques in Manila, Cebu and Bacolod since it first opened in July of 2006. Its presence made even stronger by a visit from its celebrity endorser Kwon Song Woo, otherwise known as Cholo of "Stairway to Heaven" fame.

The numbers are very impressive, indeed. So, it was with much enthusiasm that this writer, together with 11 other lifestyle editors and writers—beauty junkies all—set off with The Face Shop Manila team on a three-day Korean sojourn to learn more about the brand. Led by Suyen Corp. vice president Bryan Lim, the group was poised to find out what Face Shop has to offer and how it achieved such phenomenal success in a short period of time.

The first day was scheduled for press briefing and interview, followed by makeup demo and store visit. Tommy Kim, Face Shop executive vice-president and chief operating officer, was on hand to welcome everyone from Manila, share a brief backgrounder on the company and answer

FACE/ C2



BAKED Shimmer blusher

THE FACE Shop mascara and eyeliner

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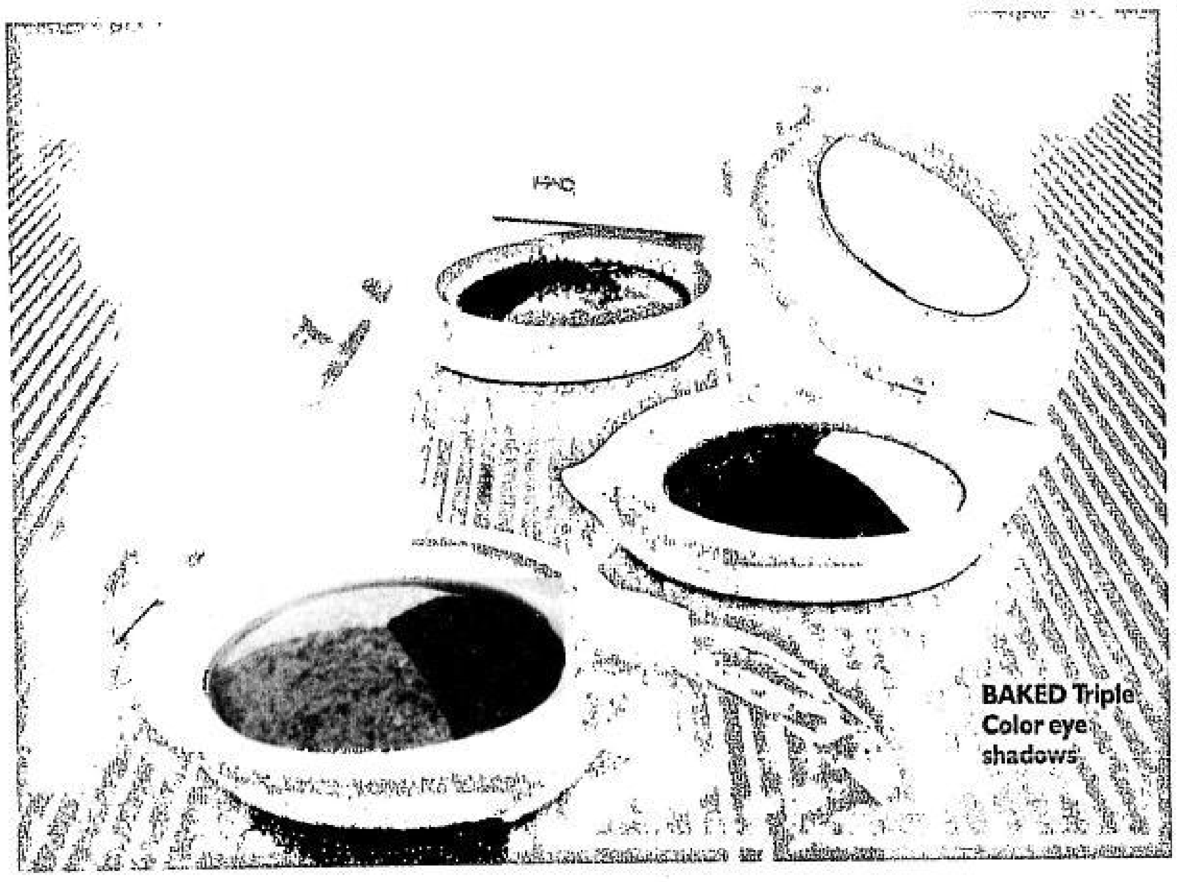
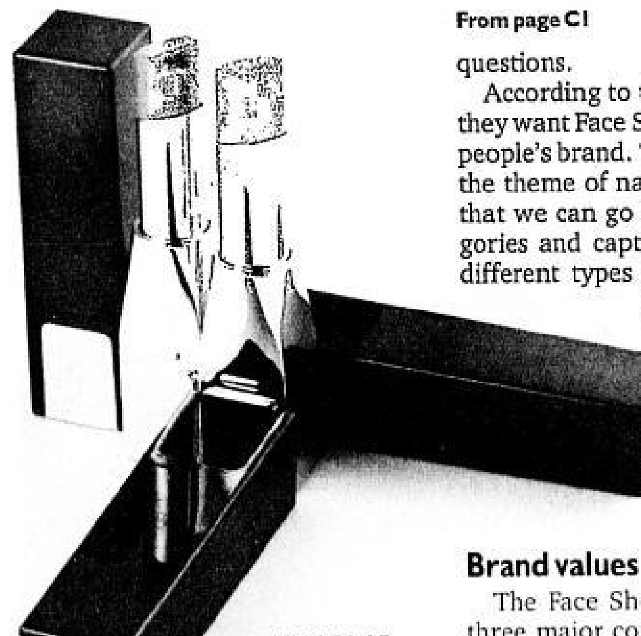

BAKED Triple Color eye shadows

CREATE a party look with the Face Shop's range of subtly sophisticated colors.

Face to face with the Shop


THE FACE Shop color shimmer lipsticks

From page C1

questions.

According to the US-educated executive, they want Face Shop to be recognized as the people's brand. "We built our brand around the theme of natural story because we felt that we can go into a lot of different categories and capture the interest of a lot of different types of people. We don't want just a niche market. We want the entire market. We want to produce products that are rife and consistent to what your lifestyle is going to be like," he said.

Brand values

The Face Shop, we learned, focuses on three major concepts, the first of which is naturalism. As such, their products are inspired by nature and made of ingredients culled from flowers, grains, fruits, other plants and herbs, and natural water to nourish and revitalize the skin.

The brand, together with AMI, a French manufacturer of eco-friendly natural products, has also developed Eco-Vert, a skincare range that not only uses ingredients from nature, but is produced, manufactured and packaged through environmentally-friendly methods. Thus, representing Eco-cosmetics or skincare with true naturalism.

Second, Face Shop is based on variety. It is currently offering 1,000 products and introduces around 30 new ones every month. There's a product for anyone and everyone—from teens, who enjoy the wide range of makeup, cleansers, pore minimizers and affordable mask sheets, to more mature women, who appreciate the skincare lines available in Face Shop.

And, third, it operates on the concept of value, providing its consumers high-quality products at affordable prices.

The brand also has a firm commitment to advanced development, as it relies heavily on local and global research and development plus consumer surveys to further strengthen its offerings. To demonstrate this, the second day of the tour was scheduled for a visit to Cosmax, one of the top cosmetics manufacturers in Korea that supplies products to a good number of leading beauty brands, including Face Shop.

"We monitor what's happening in the market—in every market—through consumer trends studies. Then we also talk to our manufacturers who are also future trend makers. And they also talk with not just us, but all the global top brands," said Kim.

As a result of such holistic brand values, Face Shop has earned its position as a top-selling Asian brand and the No. 1 selling Korean cosmetics brand worldwide. Based on studies done in 2006, Face Shop topped other Korean brands like LG, Amore Pacific and Missha in sales volume.

Color trends

An undeniable link to fashion has also strengthened Face Shop's presence in the color (otherwise known as makeup) category. "We also closely monitor and watch what's happening in the fashion industry because color makeup is very closely linked with fashion," said Kim.

The Face Shop's latest color offerings include products that are manufactured using the baked technology. The baked process, which is also used in products like the best-selling Bobbi Brown Shimmer Brick, is gaining popularity over the pressed powder variety because makeup products manufactured this way are longer-lasting and provide a luxurious but subtle sheen.

During the makeup demo by Ms. J and Face Shop training manager Karin Park, two very different looks for Spring 2008 and Winter 07/08 were presented using the brand's versatile color range. First was the Spring 2008 forecast entitled "Sweet Fairy," a warm, fresh, vital look that used warm pinks, orange and berry. This was followed by the Winter 07/08 party makeup forecast entitled "Little Black Dress." Soft, smoldering smoky eyes that were created with the use of gray eye shadow characterized the sophisticated look.

All of the above-mentioned values and offerings have undeniably contributed to the success of Face Shop. But Kim states that trust in the brand is also vital to their impressive growth. "Clearly people recognize our brand story and brand merchandise. Every consumer is the same. You get this wonderful media and then the product is not good, you simply don't go back. Our retention rate is over 60% percent. People come back, not only in Korea but everywhere in the market. So that has been a clear success story that they trust the brand," he said.

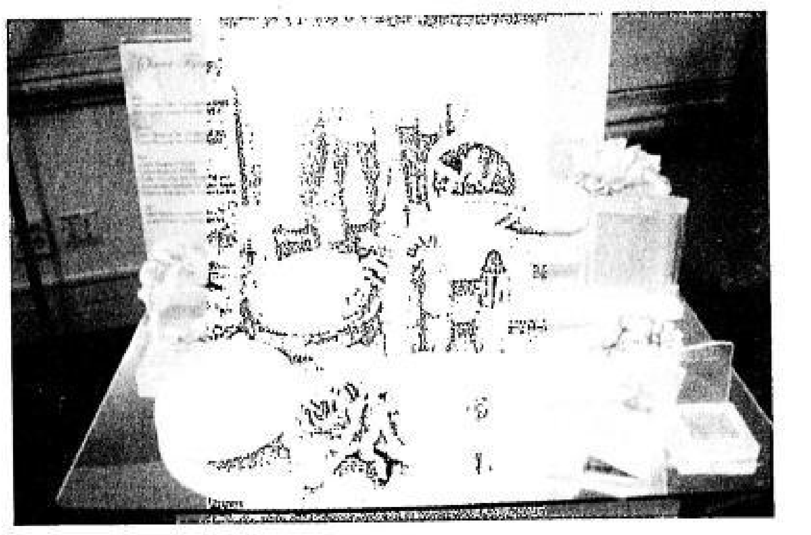
With retail sales of over 400 million US dollars worldwide, Kim said Face Shop has only just begun.

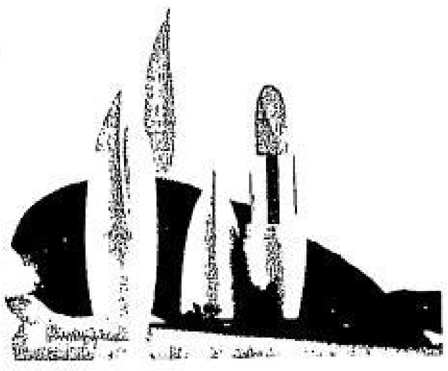
"We believe that growth is going to continue because outside Korea the growth is just beginning. It's not at the tail end but at the beginning of the story. In Korea we are now an established brand. We are like the Starbucks of the coffee world. We want to be the same in every country that we're in. We want to be that in the Philippines. We want to be a brand that every Filipino knows."

Let's face it. The way things are, they might just do it.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

ECO DE Vert, skincare with true naturalism


GO FOR warm pinks, oranges and yellows for a warm and charming Spring 2008 look.


THE FACE Shop Real Moisture lipstick

PREVIEW managing editor Vicky Montenegro test-drives eyeliner at The Face Shop Coex branch.

KIM Reyes of Meg tries out The Face Shop blusher on PR consultant Pierra Labrador.

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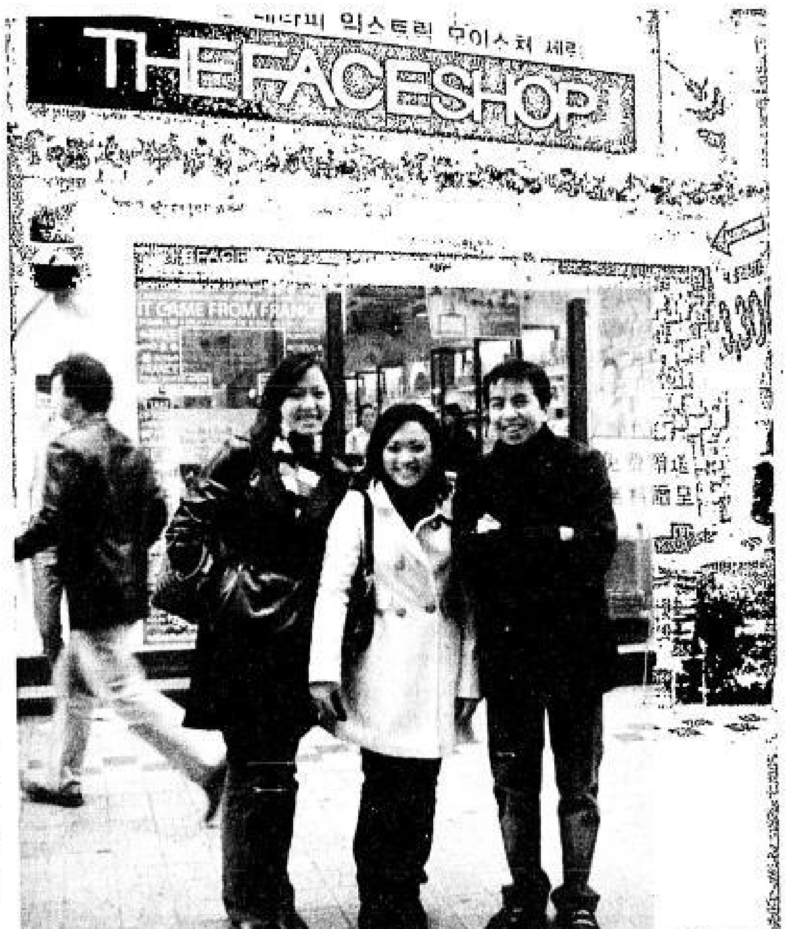
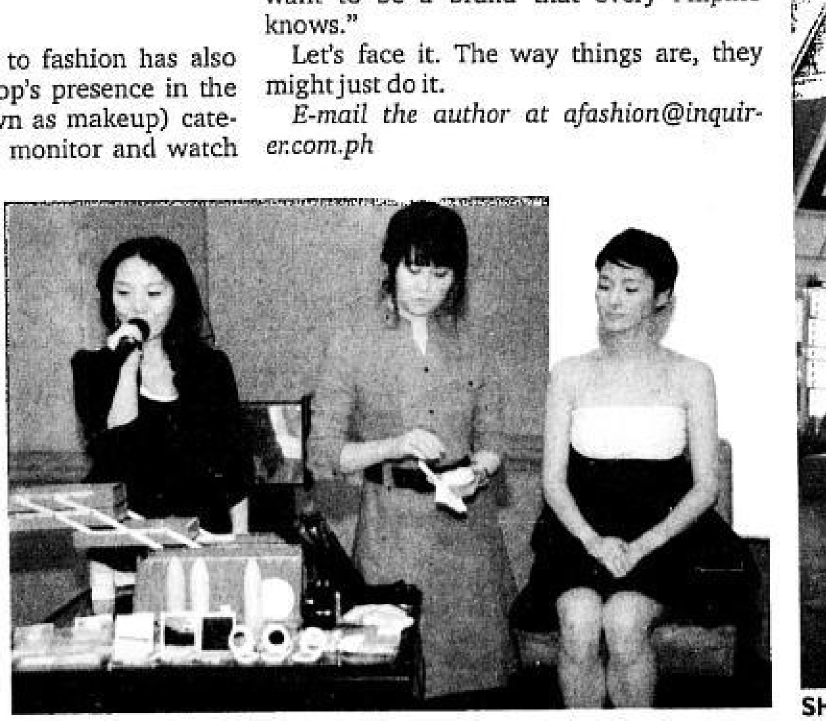


BRYAN Lim with The Face Shop Manila assistant brand manager Joyce Siy and Brand Manager Maureen Abenoja outside The Face Shop branch in Myung Dong.

THE FACE Shop overseas business executive director Han Kim, Suyen Corp vice president Bryan Lim, The Face Shop Natural Beauty winner Ju Hee Jung, the author and The Face Shop executive vice president and chief operating officer Tommy Kim.


THE FACE Shop Korea training manager Karin Park and makeup artist Ms. J do a demo on actress Sun-Jao Cho.

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SHOPPING at Doota with Mega's Vicky Tensuan, Preview's Vicky Montenegro, Girlfriend's Gina Abuyan, Chalk's Kat Cruz, The Face Shop's Pierra Labrador and Meg's Kim Reyes.

Scent of a woman

I DON'T KNOW OF ANYONE who doesn't have a favorite scent. A scent is something personal, after all, and an extension of one's self—a teaser of what type of personality you have.

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

Normally, when somebody likes the scent I am wearing, she asks what it is. Some people prefer to keep their fave scent a secret, but not me. I happily share the name of the fragrance, and if I have the bottle in my bag I even share the scent with the person.

Because, honestly, perfumes smell different from person to person. I found this out a long time ago when I used the perfume of my best friend. Since it smelled so good on her, I happily sprayed away, only to find out it made me smell like an old woman! That whole night I couldn't wait to get home and take a shower.

Fragrances consist of essential oils. Depending on your type of skin, certain oils will be absorbed faster than others, thus potentially changing the scent's symphony and causing an imbalance in the mixture. That's how we end up smelling differently.

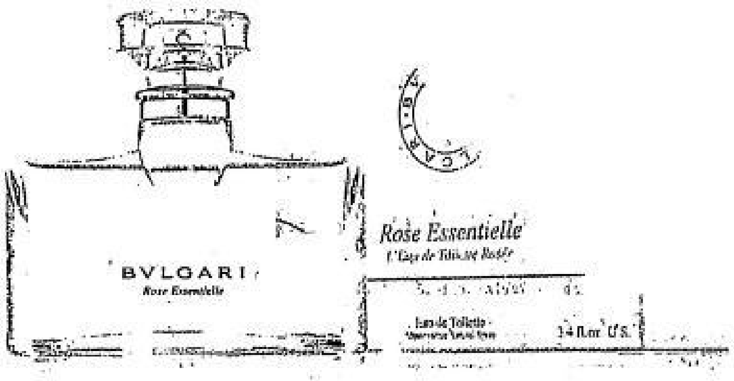
Choosing a scent doesn't only require a good nose, but also the simple exercise of sampling the product on your skin. Not only does a scent smell different, it also lasts differently depending on the person's skin type.

Well-moisturized skin will retain the fragrance longer than dry skin. So we have to keep moisturizing not only to keep our skin looking healthy and supple to the touch, but also to enjoy our scents longer. Aside from body chemistry, diet and age also affect the fragrance-keeping capacity of our skin.

Here are two new exciting scents available at Rustan's. I suggest you try them to find what suits your skin chemistry best. Also, it is always good to try a new scent because we women can be temperamental and moody. Surely we can use more than one fragrance!

Coco Mademoiselle by Chanel. A subtle scent—fresh, clean, delicate, young and modern. Fragrance you can wear from day to night.

Bulgari Rose Essentielle. For those who love floral scents that linger in the air.

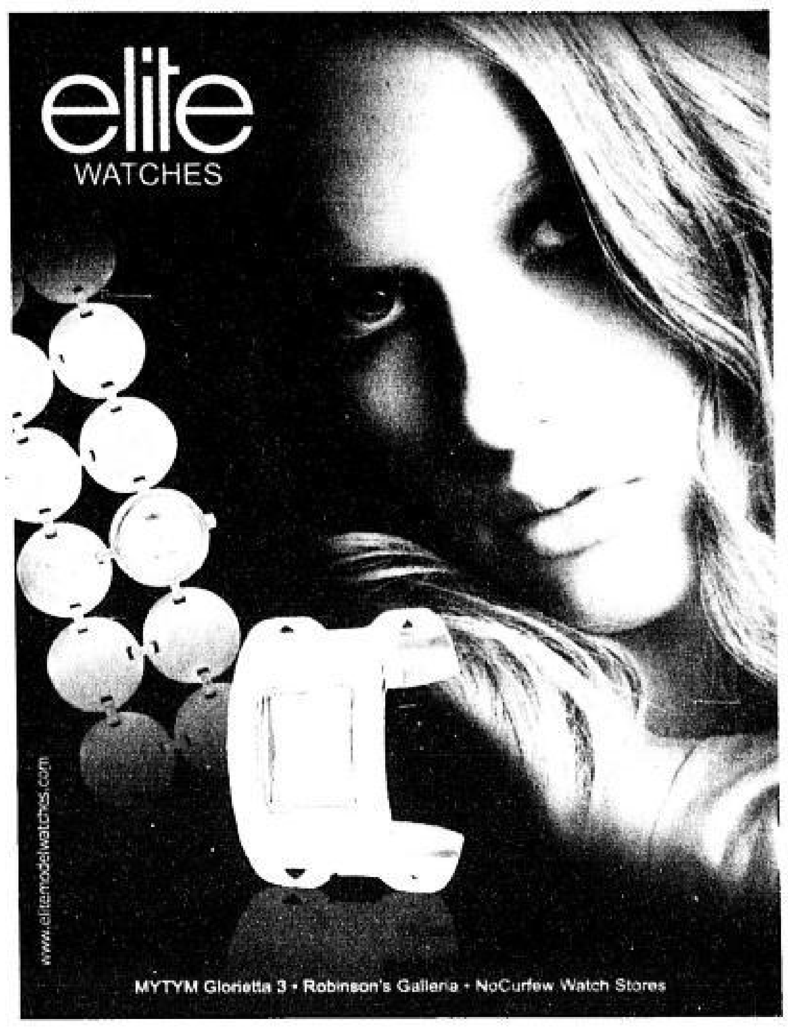


BULGARI Rose Essentielle

When choosing a fragrance, sample the product on your skin

KEIRA Knightley for Chanel

AUTOMATIC
TOMMY HILFIGER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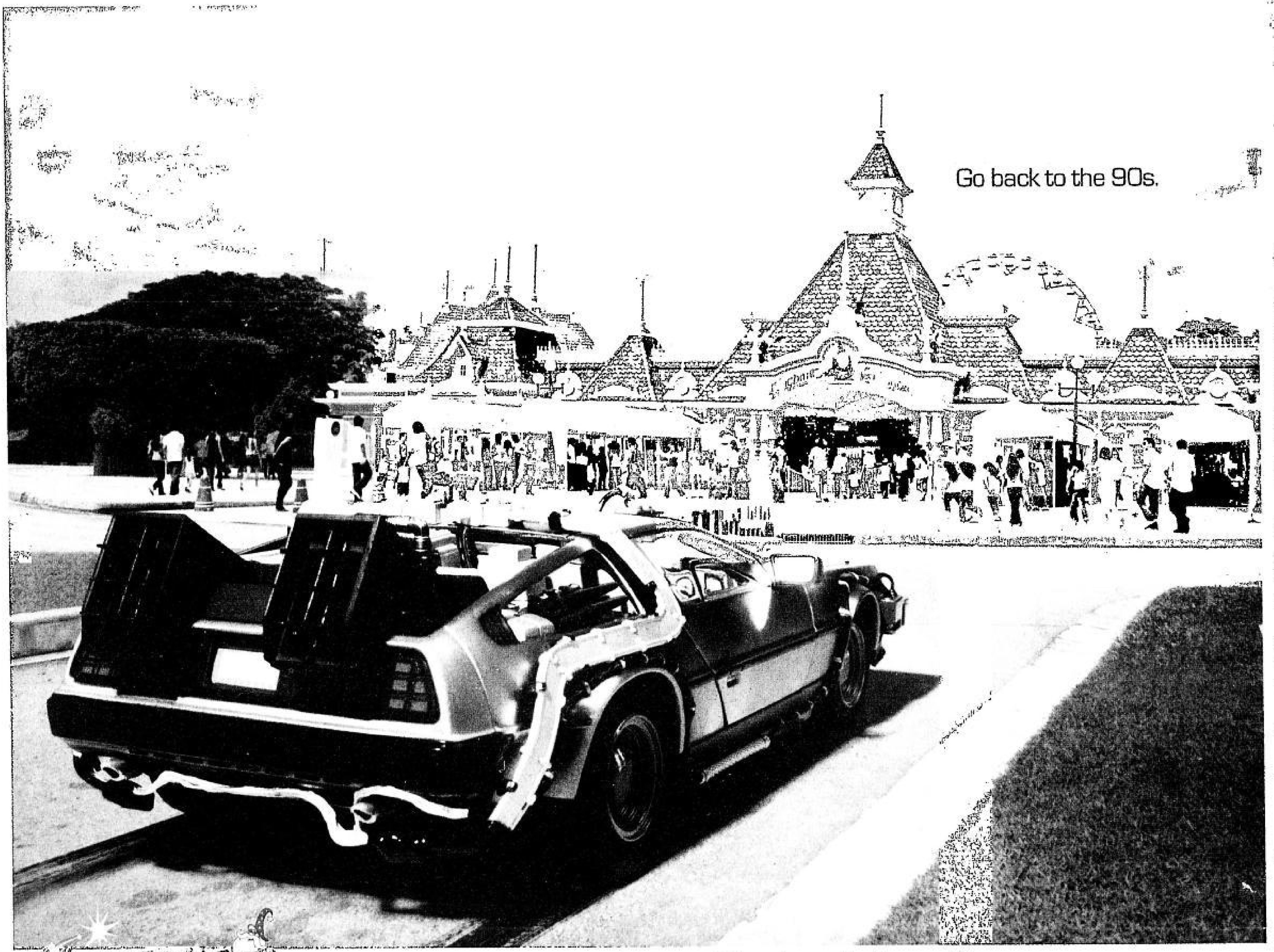

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LIFESTYLE

Contributing Editors
Jenni Epperson
and Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

ROMYDA KE
OMYDA KETH

FASHION

Stylish yin, precious yang

Exquisite jewelry and feminine fashion combine in rare show

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

IT WAS AN EVENING OF CONTRASTS AS jewelry designer Hans Brumann presented his cutting-edge designs together with Cambodian designer Romyda Keth's ultra-feminine collection via the fashion show "Azure and Amber" at Makati Shangri-La.

Produced by Didi Dee of Hiraya Gallery and directed by Ogee Atos, the show opened with a surprisingly punk rendition of Frank Sinatra's classic "My Way" by the '70s punk band Sex Pistols. One by one, models styled by Norman Crisologo in barely-there black maillots, sexy funky platforms and ultra-stylized Mohawks by Geoff Simpson and his crew entered and strutted the catwalk while showing off Brumann's pieces.

Swiss- and German-trained Brumann has been in the local jewelry business for 40 years now and is most known for his classically modern, even avant-garde jewelry designs.

For the show, he presented an icily glamorous collection that featured Tanzanite, a rare and precious deep blue-violet gem that can be mined only at the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, East Africa.

The jewelry designer, who has always believed that less is more, came up with graphic pieces that were characterized by strong lines and interesting proportions.

His Azure collection, which consists of Tanzanite as the center gem, combined with green tsavorite (garnet) and mother-of-pearl and kamagong wood and white coral, was, indeed, the much-needed yang to the yin of Keth's soft feminine pieces, which soon followed Brumann's sensual treat.

Soft simplicity

Paris-trained Keth's collection was characterized by femininity in the form of soft, fluid materials, shapely silhouettes and flirty little touches such as appliqués and beadwork. The beauty of her pieces lay in the simplicity of her silhouettes that never overpower the wearer.

Using color stories and various regional themes to divide her collection into segments, Keth opened with an African-themed sub-collection that featured earthy jersey pieces with aqua and gold embellish-

STYLISH/ D2

EAST meets west in Romyda Keth's ultra-feminine collection.

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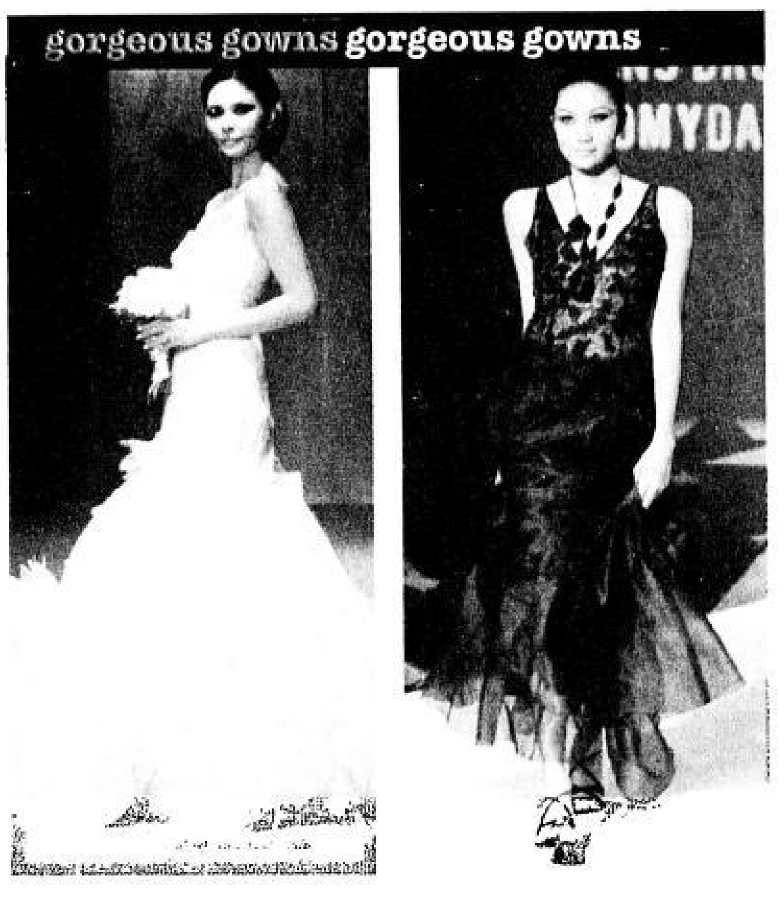
gorgeous gowns **gorgeous gowns**



Stylish yin, precious yang

From page D1

ments. She then presented various other color stories like vibrant greens, purples, reds, basic black and even a bluish purple hue that echoed Tanzanite.

Her pieces, which were always a combination of various hues and treatments like spontaneous melding of leather, or threading of shorn pieces of cloth, were visual treats that were surprisingly as functional as they were pretty.

Although most of her designs were close to the body and made of stretch material, there were also quite a number that harked back to the 1950s New Look and featured full skirts and teeny tiny waists plus jaunty oversized berets.

Besides jersey, Keth also made use of fabulous silks, crepe de chine and organza. She also managed to incorporate Asian perspectives and global appeal, creating a beautiful integration of east and west.

The Makati Shangri-La ballroom was hardly recognizable—all swathed in chic black and gray. It was the perfect backdrop for such a duet, not to mention the perfect foil for a well-heeled, bejeweled crowd that obviously appreciated the juxtaposition of both artists' works.

Kudos to Ma. Elena Carlos for an utterly chic and one-of-a-kind stage design, to John Battalia for his dramatic lighting effects, to Keth for her pulsating choice of music and Steve Lovina for excellent musical direction.

Romyda Keth's Ambre boutique is at G/F Vernida 1 Bldg., Amorsolo St., Makati City, with contact numbers 8921575 and 8931554.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

purple reigns **purple reigns** purple

PUNK-ROCK vixens in sexy maillots, sky-high platforms, stylized Mohawks and exquisite Hans Brumann jewelry

Brumann bijoux. Hans Brumann's icily glamorous collection centered on Tanzanite

If this Cambodian designer can do it, so can Filipinos

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

THE FIRST GALA collection in Manila of Cambodian designer **Romyda Keth** two weeks ago was a display not only of her design genius but also of what a thriving fabric industry can do for fashion, something Filipino fashion designers have been pining for for decades.

In her collection, Romyda showed off the use of silk and organza sourced from villages in Cambodia where silk weaving is alive.

Her collection didn't look ethnic or purist. Since she grew up in Paris, this chic mother of four has honed an aesthetic that combines the Western and the Asian.

Keth's parents are diplomats: Her mother is now the Cambodian ambassador to Beijing and her father, a Unesco official. Since the family had fled Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge regime in the 1970s, Keth grew up in Paris.

In France, she got exposed to French designs. She studied fashion design at the prestigious Esmod School of Design and before she could end her apprenticeship, she sold her designs to Macy's. That set her off on designing and selling her clothes in Paris. (With her French husband, biologist Denis Laurent, Romyda resettled in Cambodia in the '90s with her children.)

As was apparent in her Manila show, Romyda is an expert in designing a year-round collection, from Spring-Summer to Autumn-Winter. (She makes at least a thousand designs a year, her atelier making clothes destined for her Ambre boutiques in Paris, Singapore, Vietnam, Tokyo.)

When I visited her boutique in Phnom Penh early this year, I saw how good her Autumn-Winter clothes were. Her collection is both informed and cutting-edge. She knows how to use color, silhouette, fabrics and ornamentation. Based on these basics, she defines her collection, and makes a clear design statement.

When a woman designer is good—such as our very own **Lulu Tan Gan**, for example—she's really good, because she designs and makes clothes a woman needs and can wear. That's real feminine fashion.

You can almost pluck off the clothes models are parading on the runway and wear them. Romyda Keth's Manila collection is like that.

WOMAN in Cambodian village off the Mekong river weaving turquoise silk in her home

Feminine touches

She had subtle feminine touches, such as sleeves puffed at the elbows, or skirts pleated at the hem. She knew how to calibrate her use of frills; that was why her clothes didn't look frothy or frivolous.

In her Phnom Penh boutique, what caught our interest were her winter coats in suede, wool or leather.

Their cut was classic but they had hip touches such as frayed or fabric trimmings.

Also sought after in Phnom Penh are her men's shirts, suits and pants. We noticed a constant stream of male expats walking into her boutique.

Keth has access to indigenous Cambodian fabrics such as silk and organza. (She also used jerseys and stretch fabrics from Korea.) In Cambodia, we crossed the Mekong river to get to the village where women work in their looms to produce Cambodian silk.

It felt surreal crossing the river which decades ago was in the news almost every day because of the war; it was one river the American forces never got to conquer.

Yet there we were, walking around the villages bordering the river, hopping from house to house seeing women weaving the silk. The weaves were in luxuriant colors—fuchsia, emerald, turquoise. It was as if each neighborhood specialized on a particular color.

Ramon Bilbao, a fashion designer-turned-social kibitzer, who was with us, went ecstatic buying up the silks.

Now put such fabrics in deft hands such as Romyda's, who has a solid training in Paris fashion, and you have good boutique business.

What's impressive is that Romyda's clothes worldwide are selling fast—each batch sells out in four weeks—which keeps her factory busy.

Filipino entrepreneur **Janet Adams** thus knew she had stumbled on a potential venture when she bought Keth's clothes in Phnom Penh and met the designer.

Janet opened Ambre boutique here. Close friend **Didi Dee** of Hiraya Gallery mounted the gala show—her first production in a while—with her good friend **Ogee Atos** doing the direction.

Brumann's tanzanite

Before the show at Shangri-La Makati, however, the guests were swooning over Hans Brumann's tanzanite collection. Its pieces opened the show. Brumann's tanzanite is now the must-buy among Manila's style set (the paying kind).

More rare than diamonds, tanzanite is the blue gem which Tiffany launched and has turned into birthstone gem (for the December-born). Brumann loves its varied hues—from deep blue to purple.

He loves to work with the nuances of color and sets them off using various materials—kamagong, white coral, mother-of-pearl. Diamonds enhance the tanzanite's blue.

A Brumann piece is like a sparkling sculpture. The good news is he's opening a gallery/store at Greenbelt 5. Now a bigger public should be able to appreciate Hans Brumann's art.

FASHION BUZZ

Hot, haute, hot news!

artists fair pilipinas

3

Artists Fair Pilipinas Year 3

THE ARTISTS FAIR, ALSO known as KC Concepcion's brainchild, is now on its third year! The fair was conceptualized to give young Pinoy contemporary and pop artists a venue to showcase and sell their works, and to give young people and those who are young at heart, a place to express themselves, jam, be surrounded by music, poetry, photos and painting and, of course, shop their hearts away.

This year's fair will be held at Eastwood Central Plaza (look for the carousel in front of Seafood Island) on Nov. 24-25, 12 nn-2 a.m.

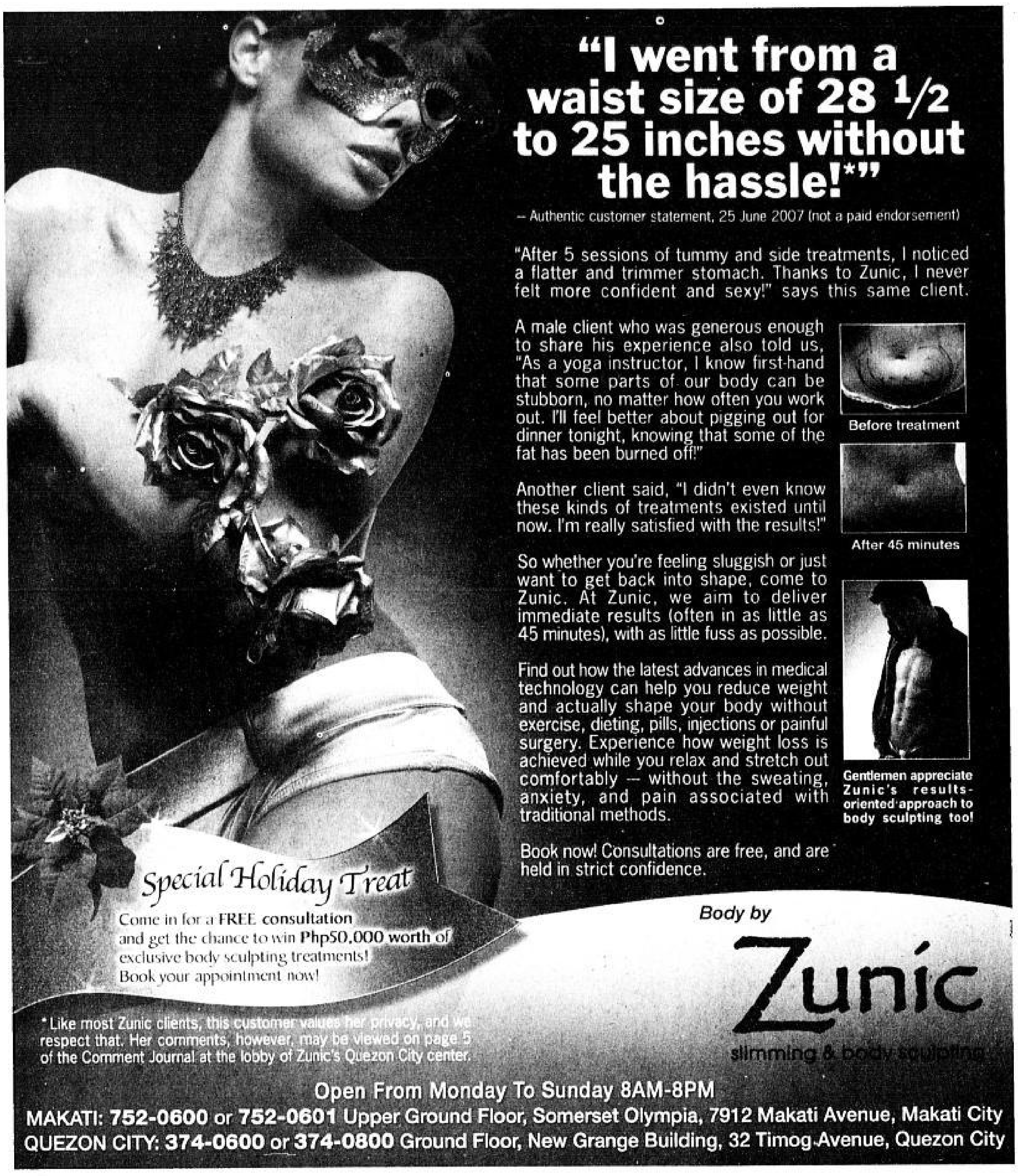
In KC's words, "This is just a baby project of mine that started in 2005, for which I was able to tap three others to be in the team. One of them is Tim Yap."

The booths are split into two parts. To get people to catch on to the concept of an Art Fair, there are street performances, spoken-word workshops, random art exhibits. One area is for chosen celebrity booth-holders that sell their second-hand items. The other part takes up majority of the space, because it is dedicated to all the artists.

Last year featured emerging abstract painters like Richard Tuason, spoken word poets and recording artists from the "Romancing Venus" series by Kooky, and calligraphy items created on the spot by Wawi Navarroza.

Entrance fees and proceeds from the Artists Fair booths go directly to charity. People are encouraged to donate more if they wish. The beneficiaries are the Hands on School Galing Mo Kid of the Hands On Manila Foundation (a mentoring project for 30 high-achieving students from three public schools that teaches the kids to be leaders and entrepreneurs) and Marco Polo Care Center at Virlanie Foundation (funds will help prevent the closing down of this center, which plays a crucial role in the development of children 3-7 years old. It serves as initial housing for those who are newly referred from the streets and other existing institutions).

KC Concepcion



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– Authentic customer statement, 25 June 2007 (not a paid endorsement)

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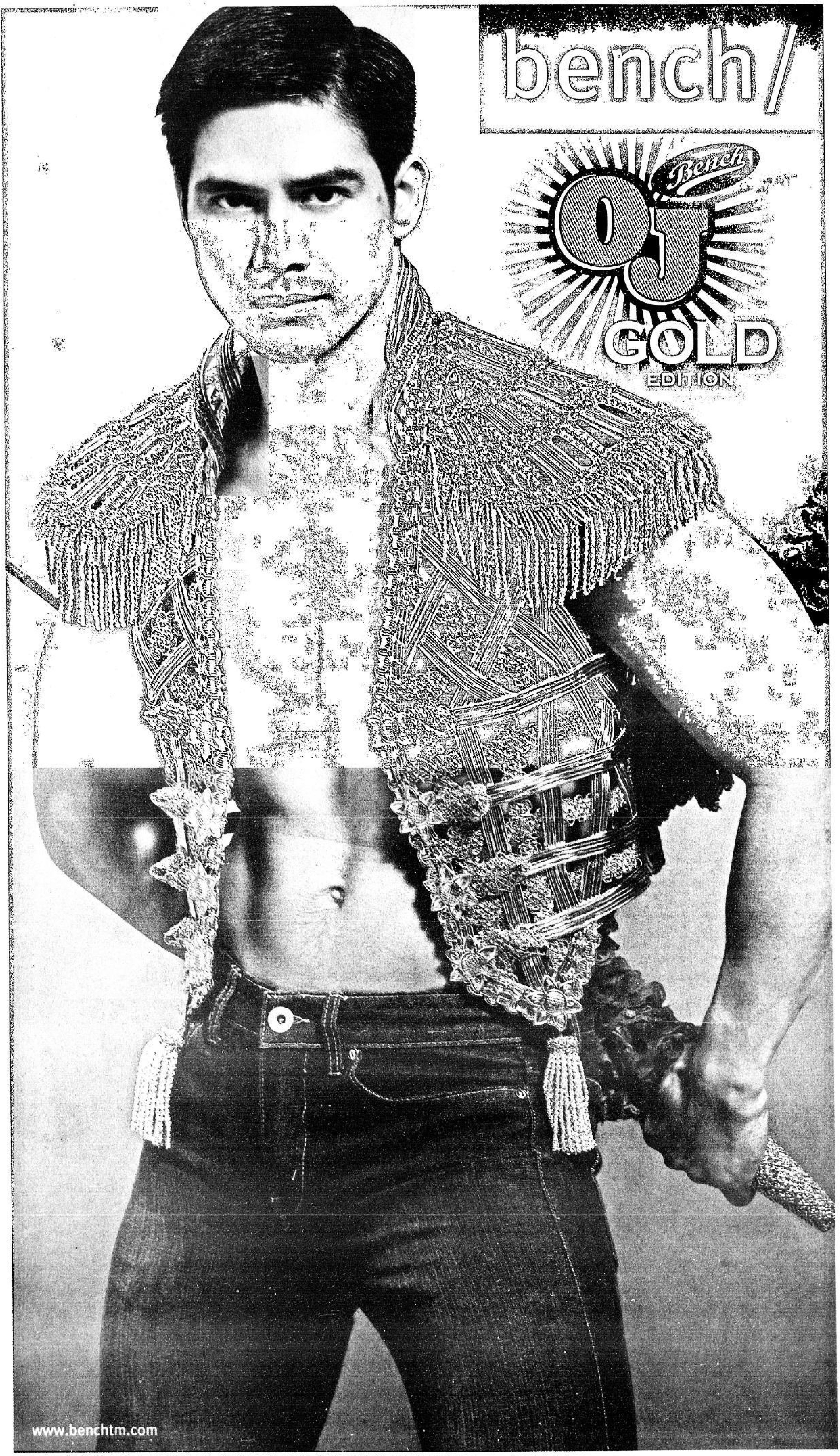
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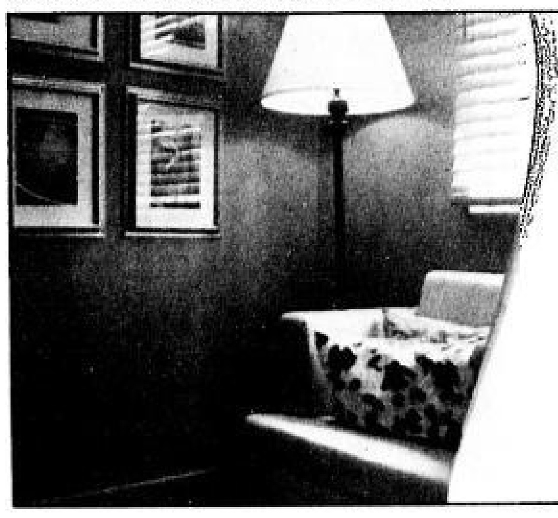
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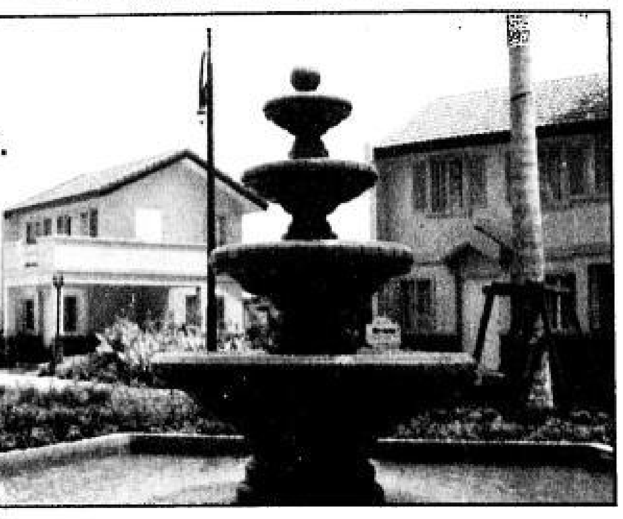

CHIQUI Brosas, Fe Dixon and architect Gerry Contreras

EIMEE and Brian Cragun with Chacha Camacho

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RICKY Fernandez, Len Olbes and Evie Costa

POPULAR couple Gunter Matschuck and vivacious Joanne M.

TALENTED artist Ivan Acuña

Fun birthday bash at Gerry's place

RICKY Davao

JENNY Napoles

JIM Napoles, Dr. Winnie Sison and Donnie Ramirez

CRICKETTE, Nena and Hindy Tantoco

JOEY, Gina and Anthony Yupangco

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

EYE-CATCHER FE DIXON, MY *palangga* who was a senior stewardess of our best pal Philippine Airlines, hosted a get-together dinner for her friends to mark her birthday.

Fe's super-close friend, mega interior designer **Gerry Contreras**, offered the use of his posh penthouse in the swanky Gercon Plaza building in Makati for the birthday bash.

Amid the awesome collection of objets d'art in Gerry's private enclave, the invitees dined and partook of the well-prepared buffet catered by **Edwin Tan**. They also sipped some very fine and rare bubbly, dahlings.

The big favorite of the guests was the yummy, so-healthy Mediterranean salad that Fe personally prepared. It had loads of cheeses, fruits and nuts.

Looking around, one could see the company was scintillating, *palanggas*.

There were Fe's glam girl pals such as **Cory Quirino, Geena Zablan, Len Olbes** and sultry **Isabel Rivas**, among others.

No wonder the stag line composed of Manila International Airport Administration director **Rolly Trinidad**, Imeldific's brainy chief of staff and spokesperson **Ding Diaz** and Dr. **Ricky Fernandez**, plus other stags like them—were all in an ogle mode all night!

Fe's close buddy, **Marian Ong**, and press pals were also there, *palanggas*.

When it was time to get the party on a roll, we were treated to the rarely heard singing talents of the in-demand Muebles Italiano hotshot **Noel Gonzales** and Manila Bulletin lifestyle editor, the adorable **Ethel Timbol**. (Ethel should be a contestant in TV's "Celebrity Duets"; she would win, I must say, without batting an eyelash, dahlings.)

Also performing that night were award-winning composer **Dero Pedero**, multi-awarded actor **Ricky Davao** and the host with the most, Gerry C.!

On air and on terra firma, Fe D. certainly knows how to make you feel like you're on Cloud Nine.

Happy birthday, dahling! Cheers!

Dreams of Alhambra

This was one night when all roads led to Shangri-La Makati, the hotel of choice for ultra-glamorous events, dahlings.

An endless stream of *Cosmo-Manille's* mega A-listers came from the creamiest-of-the-cream set, such as business magnates, CEO's, bankers and high-society members.

Naturellement, they were there for the 23rd gala fashion show of the Prince of Alta Moda, **Inno Sotto**.

Titled "Alhambra!" the show saw the designer collaborating with international accessories designer **Bea Valdes**.

Sotto tried to bring to life the mystery and excitement of Alhambra in Spain.

Deserving the grand tribute was international personality, the beautiful **Isabel Preysler-Boyer** of Spain.

Other special guests were glamorous **Imelda Cojuangco** and Spanish Ambassador **Luis Arias** and his *esposa*, *señora* **Soledad Laviña Arias**.

The awesome show was conceptualized by Inno and produced by his manager **Joji Dingcong** and by cyber-smart **Mac Cuan**.

Inno's friends helped along, such as **Sofia Zobel-Elizalde** as the creative consultant, **Maurice Arcache** (as in *moi*) and **Anton San Diego** of Philippine Tatler.

Anton and I had extended Inno's invitation to Preysler to visit *Manille* after eight long years and witness once again the gala of the designer that she had always admired over the years.

Margarita Araneta Fores also helped in the gala by decorating the venue with absolutely gorgeous flowers. **Patrick Rosas** did the models' makeup and **Ariel Lozada** directed the show.

Ultimately it was an evening where Inno Sotto and Bea Valdez dazzled the chi-chi crowd with their awesome glamorous fashion, *palanggas*.

The show had the support of Novare Technologies, Nokia, Rustan's and Globe Asiatique's Sky Suites.

Also collaborating in the show were Tatler, Belo Medical Group Inc., Bergmann, Thai Airways, Pond's, Möet & Chandon, QTV-11, Petron's Fleet Card, San Miguel Corp., Vivian Sarabia Optical, Mercedez-Benz and Fiori D' M.

MANNY del Rosario, Louie Ysmael, KitKat Zobel and Ina Ayala

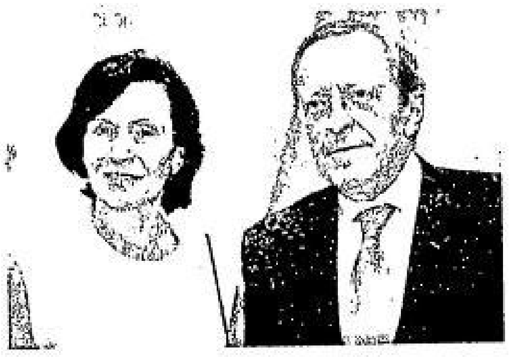
TINGTING Cojuangco

PILAR Roxas Areilza in a Pucci gown

MIKE Sandoval and Marietta Santos

AL and Carla Tengco

MANDY and Duane Santos


SPANISH Ambassador Luis Arias and wife Soledad Laviña Arias

MARGA Valdes

SOFIA and Patxi Elizalde

ARCHIE Rodriguez, Mutya Laxa and Meryll Yan

ROSANNA Fores, *moi*, Mercy Tuason, Isabel Preysler, Piere Luigi Foschi, Doris Ho and Maritess Yuchengco

SIGALIT Djemal, Jojie Dingcong and Lutz and Ali Kunnack

DARLING de Jesus, Wilma Galvante, Anabelle Rama and Anette Gozon-Abrogar

OFFIE Recto, KC Concepcion, Marietta Santos and Dr. Tony Protacio of Virlanie Foundation

Nov 19 -
Nov 25, 2007

Rock the Halls in filicity

the city of life

FILINVEST CORPORATE CITY, ALABANG

NORTHGATE CYBERZONE

Dec 1
6am to 10am
Greens & Grills Festival Mall
MAGIC WITH THE DAWN AND HALE

Dec 7, 8:30pm
Northgate Fastbytes
BATTLE OF THE CYBERZONE BANDS

Dec 15
Filicity Grounds
THE 1ST FILINVEST MOUNTAIN BIKE 9 to 9 ENDURANCE RACE
by Sabak & Raceface

WESTGATE

Nov 23 - 24
FRENCH NIGHTS
Dine in the romantic amblence of Leggiero Strings and mime artists, and get the feel of a truly French Christmas.

Nov 29 - 30
MEDITERRANEAN NIGHTS

Dec 1
VW EXPO

Dec 5 & 6
WINE & CHEESE PARTY

Dec 8
CRUZN' NYT III by Southside Customs

Dec 13 - 14
ASIAN NIGHTS

Dec 22
LUAU NIGHT

SOUTH STATION

Nov 24 & Dec 8 (Grand Finals)
VIDEOKE SINGING CHALLENGE
Sing to win! Be part of this first Videoke Challenge at South Station and get to win exciting prizes. Open to all ages.

Nov 25
U CAN MUV DANCE REVOLUTION
Move and groove to your choice dance music to win prizes. Open to all ages.

Nov 24 - Dec 31
OROBIA ART HUB
Witness the opening of the Orobia Art gallery to be attended by some known personalities.

Nov 25
TEEN PAINTING COMPETITION
Join or simply witness teen artists and painters buckle down with the masters in this one-day art competition.

Nov 23 - Jan 6
SUPER CARNIVAL
Enjoy the traditional pinoy karnabal with fun rides and games reminiscent of our childhood past. Children will not be able to resist the excitement.

Nov 23 - Jan 6
NIGHT MARKET
Grab the best buys for the holidays and shop 'til midnight! Lots of choices, lots of fun!

Dec 9
U CAN MUV DANCE CONCERT

Dec 20
CHRISTMAS LANTERN PARADE AND AWARDING

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL
FILINVEST-ALABANG

MUST SEE!

Nov 24 - 25
Carousel Court
ROCKIN' AND ROLLIN' with UNIQUELY Singapore

Rock and Roll with RJ Jacinto and Friends, Abrakadabra, and the Vernon Coleman Band! Come in your 50's or 60's garb and get to win exciting prizes.

Plus get a chance to win 10 TRIPS TO SINGAPORE!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-517 Series of 2007

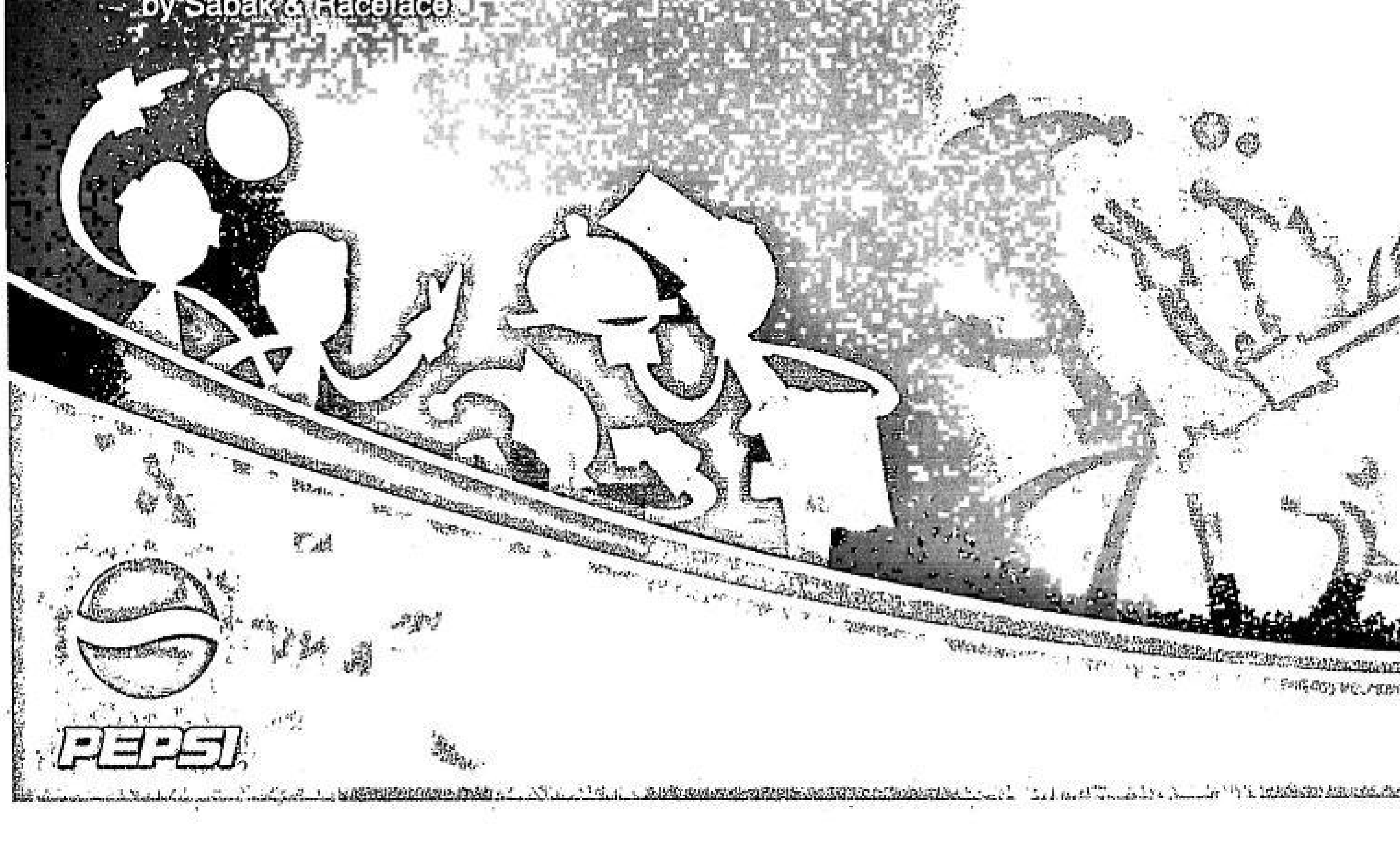
Dec 1
Bridgeway Parking Area
SCOOT AND CYCLE FESTIVAL
The 70's and Christmas Grand Launch

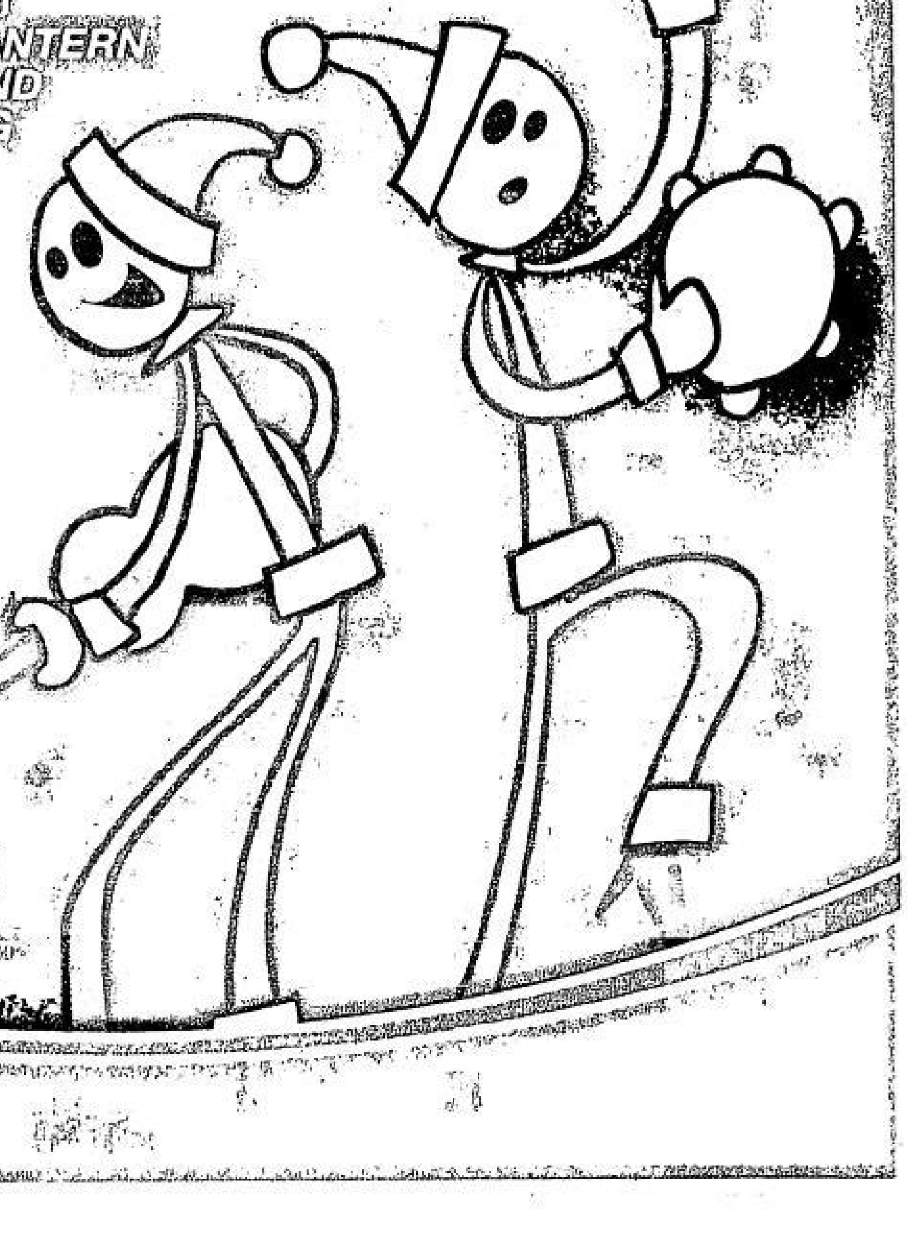
Dec 9
Carousel Court
THE 80'S DANCE PARTY

Dec 14
9pm Greens & Grills
THE COMPANY AT GREENS & GRILLS

Dec 16
Carousel Court
THE 90'S SHOW

Dec 23
Carousel Court
THE BEST OF SAMBA AND CAPOEIRA





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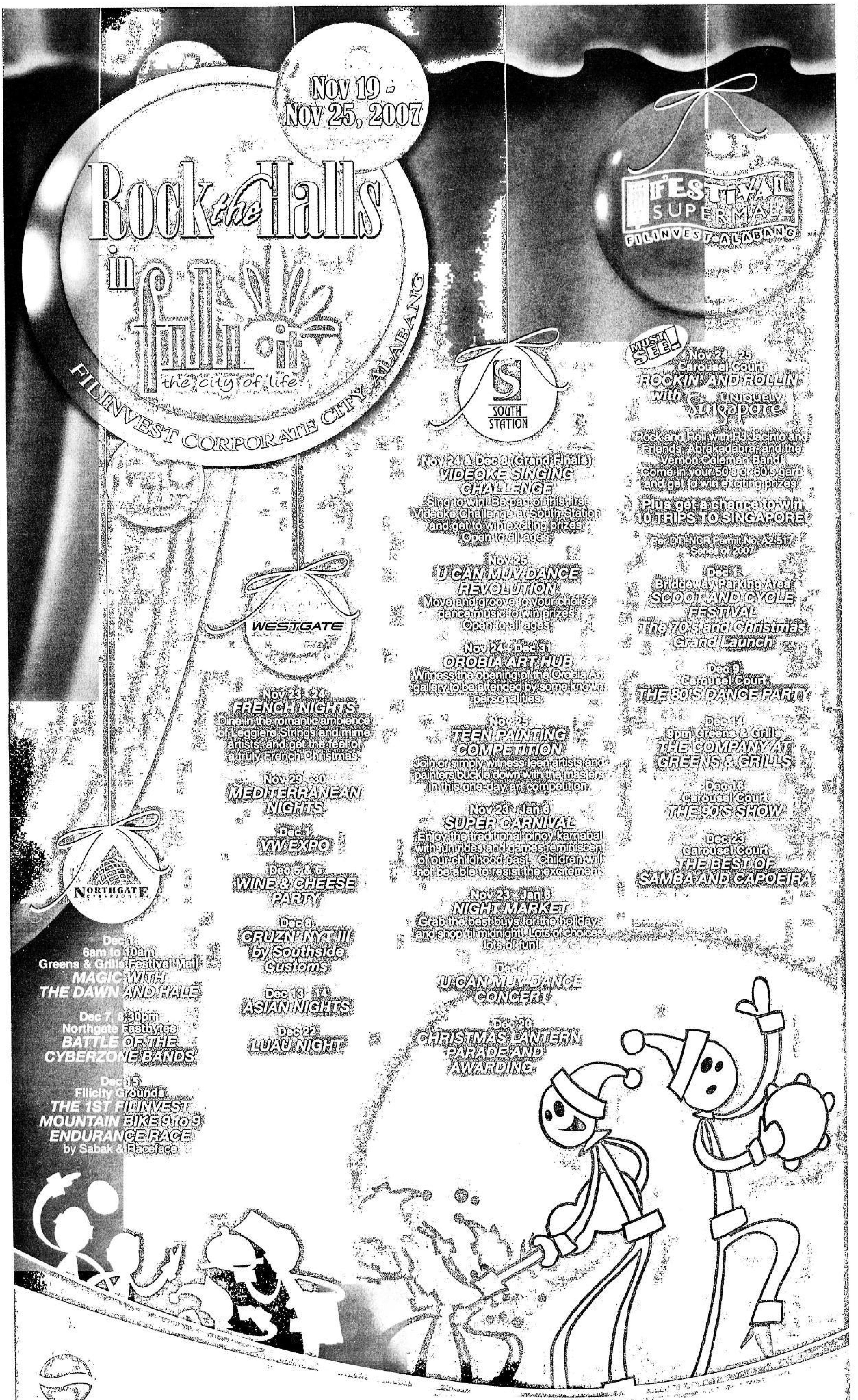

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Dec 23
Carousel Court
THE BEST OF SAMBA AND CAPOEIRA

Beauty gift ideas for the special women in your life

MAKEOVER 911

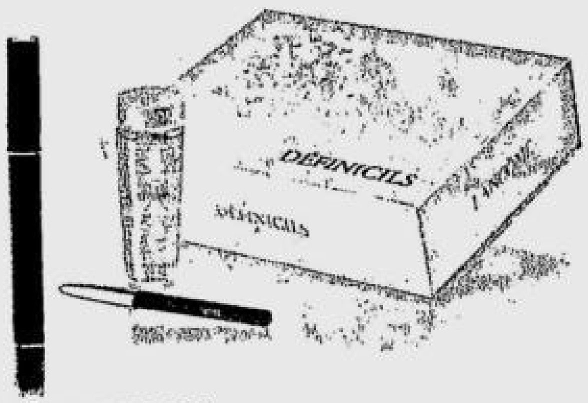
Kinny Salas

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING for the special women in your life is both a glorious and frustrating affair. All the pretty packaging and special sale offers make choosing the perfect gift such an ordeal. I have included several options in varied price ranges for different personalities which I hope will help.

You may try giving Lancôme products. My favorites are Definicils and Flextencils Mascara, L'Extreme, Juicy Tubes, Miracle (peppery floral) and Hypnose (vanilla and berries).

For Lancôme's eau de parfum, my favorite is Miracle Forever, which has a stronger vanilla/chocolate note than Hypnose.

Lancôme is expensive so give it only to the special women of your life like your mother, wife, girlfriend, best friend or sister.



DEFINICILS (P1,695)

MIRACLE Forever Coffret with 50 ml each of eau de parfum, lotion and shower gel

DOVE Body Bars

Dove

Everyone has a friend or relative who suffers from very dry sensitive body skin caused by dermatitis.

Those with such a problem lack that film of moisture on the skin that keeps it supple and smooth, protects it from superficial scratches and allows it to heal faster. They end up spending a fortune on moisturizing creams and bath products.

So load up on stocks that will deal with very dry skin. Dove has come a long way since those pink-and-white moisturizing bars I have come to associate with the elderly or sensitive-skinned babies while I was growing up.

I highly recommend Dove's Fresh Touch line consisting of moisture body bar, shower gel, deodorant/antiperspirant in liquid or stick, and body lotion for normal skin which has cucumber and green tea that smells very refreshing and clean for both sexes of any age.

Complements include Dove's Bath and Body Works Cucumber Melon body spray. The deodorant does not darken underarms; it fends off body odor.

Those with very sensitive skin may try Dove's Extra Sensitive Beauty Bar, Beauty Moisture Body Wash, Softening Facial Foam and Beauty Body Moisturizer. They leave skin smelling like clean white musk.

Dove's Gentle Exfoliating Body wash smells like baby cologne and works well with Dove's Firming Body Lotion.

Oily skin solution

Those with greasy face may try the Belo Acne Control Kit (P1,848, VAT inclusive). If only this was around when I was in my teens, the people around me would have been spared from my hysterics whenever I would get monthly acne breakouts.

After I discovered this in 2005, I have been assured of close-to-perfect skin for every important occasion.

Each kit contains Anti-Acne bar (P246.40), Pore Minimizing Toner (P369.60) and Daily Peel Solution (P616).

Call 8442939.

Tip: You may want to buy an Extra Pore Refining Toner as you have to use it twice a day. You can skip the bar if you already have an effective acne wash at home.

Also recommended is Clean and Clear and Neutrogena Deep Clean foaming face wash. These products really keep oil at bay so the face stays fresher longer. The liquid Clean and Clear takes out all makeup except waterproof mascara.

Neutrogena Deep Clean Facial Cleanser in gel form is meant for the face, but I found out that it made me break out when used as such. However, it eliminates pimples and leaves skin smooth when used on the back, chest and shoulders.

For areas I shave like legs and underarms, Neutrogena prevents ingrown hairs and dead skin buildup. These areas turned whiter, too.

Warning: The products may contain salicylic acid that's not good for pregnant women.

LANCÔME Juicy Tubes Coffret has the Toffee, Marshmallow, Fraise (Strawberry) and Lychee variants.

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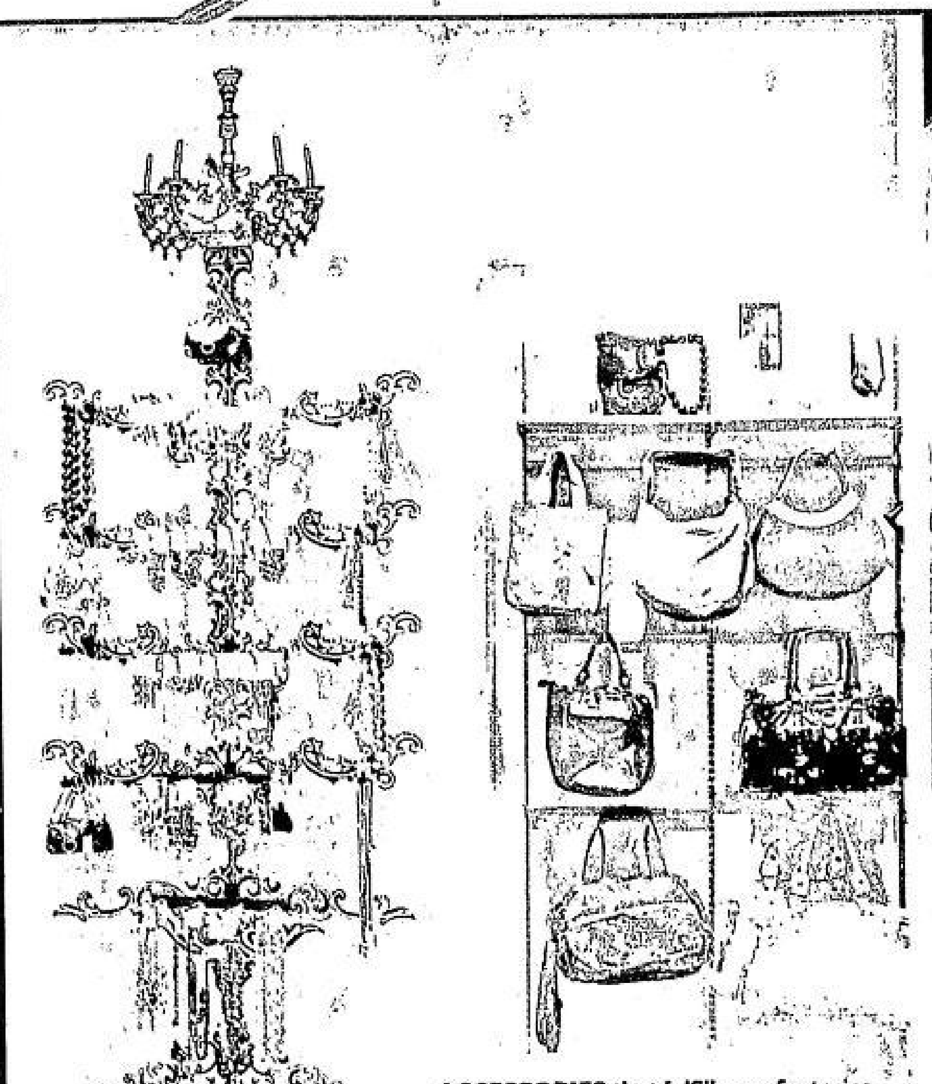
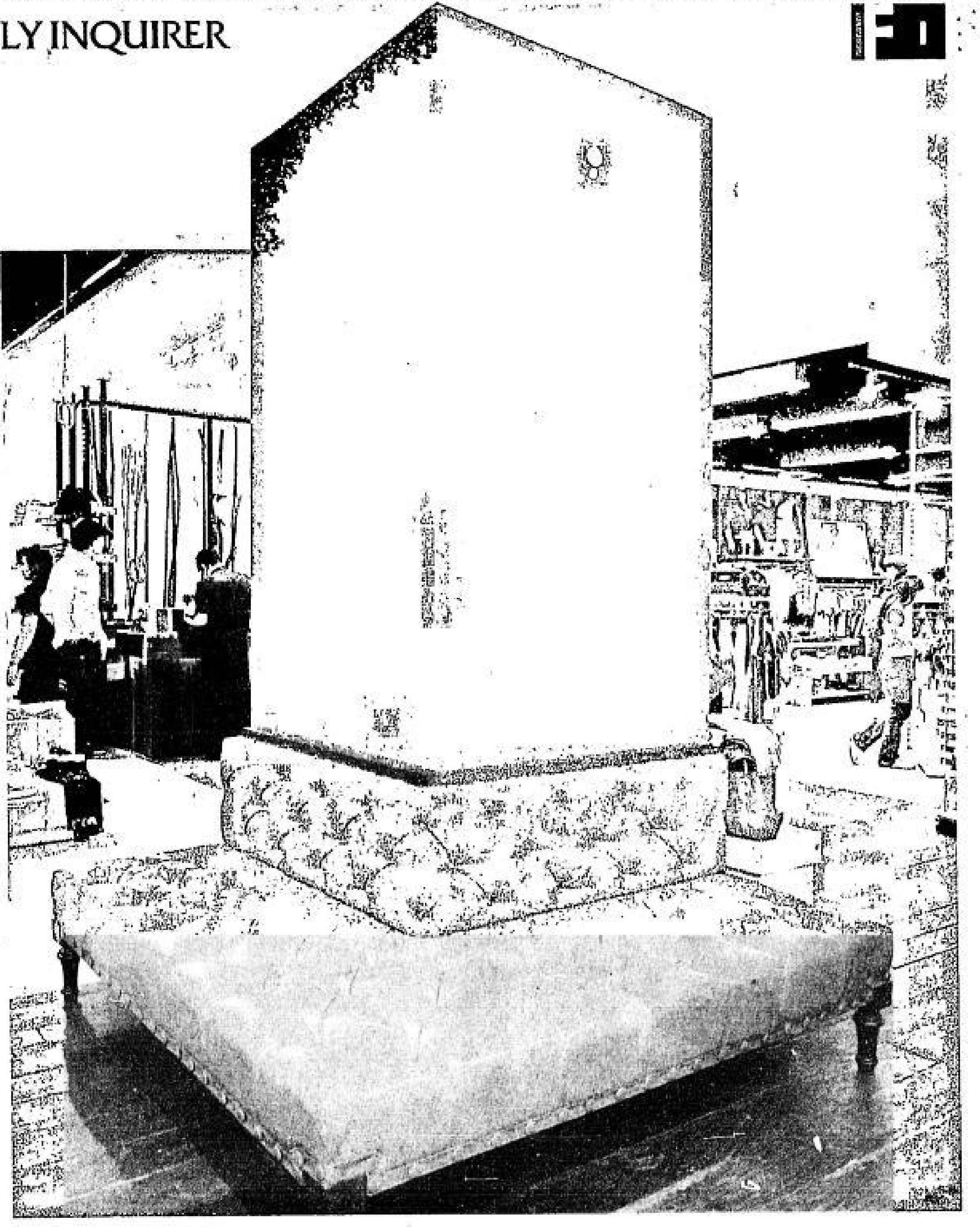
LIFESTYLE

FASHION



ACCESSORIES that fulfill your fantasies. Beaded necklaces, bracelets, earrings and oversized handbags



Hot seat. Red leatherette tufted bench

Interior motifs

Bench's Rockwell shop shows 'edited' versions of items that are seen in regular Bench boutiques, all handpicked by Ben Chan himself

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

THE '80S MAY BE CONSIDERED BY MANY to be fashion history's great fluke—a cringe-filled runway showcasing shoulder pads, leg warmers and acid-washed *baston* jeans, crowned with a big nest of hair-sprayed hair.

Though we'd like to erase those moments from our long-term memories, there was one good thing that happened to fashion—local fashion—then: the birth of Bench.

The retail marvel of Ben Chan rose to the top of the casual-wear market from its beginnings in that era. What's more, it has elevated Filipino fashion to global standards. Today, many collections and seasons later, the label has been reborn.

You can witness its reincarnation at Rockwell Power Plant, where the Bench boutique pays homage to the very first Bench branch that opened in 1987 at Park Square, Makati.

The Rockwell store makes use of old

INTERIOR/ F2

Jean pool. Assorted denim jeans stacked neatly on wooden shelves

PUMA

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GAISANO MALL, DAVAO • LIMKETKAI MALL, CAGAYAN DE ORO
NOW OPEN • FESTIVAL SUPERMALL • ROBINSONS MALL BACOLOD

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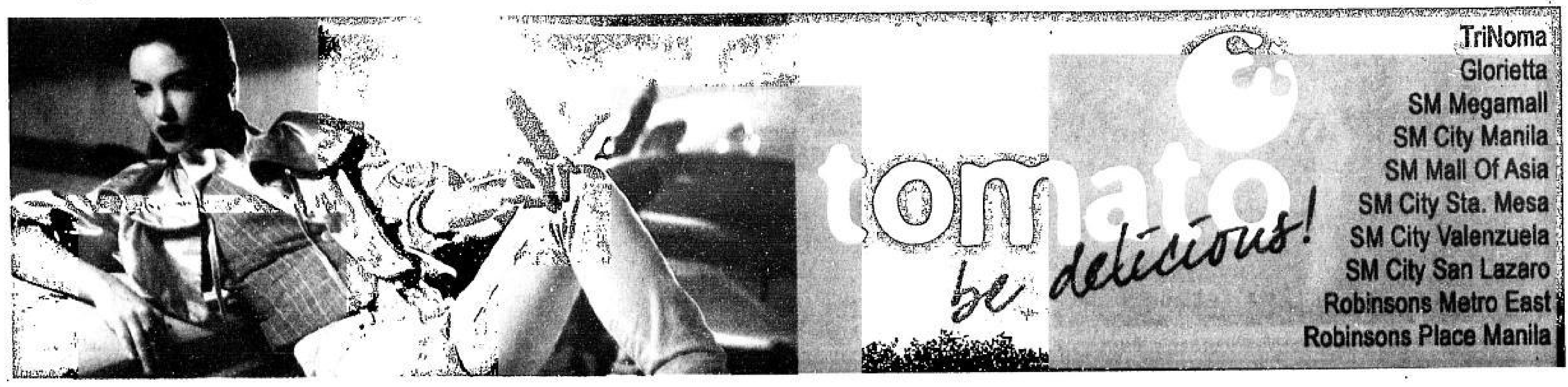
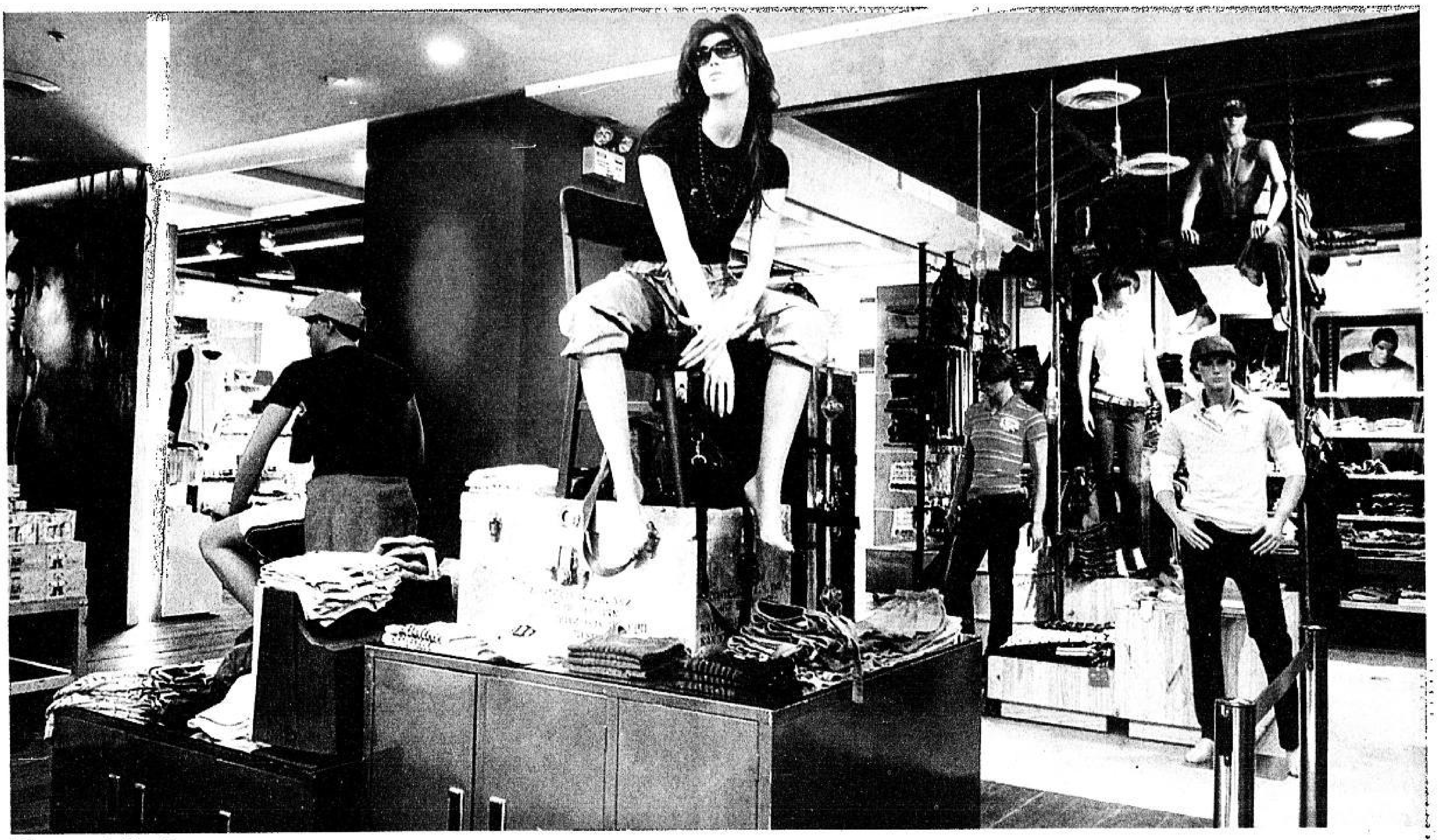


TriNoma
Glorietta
SM Megamall
SM City Manila
SM Mall Of Asia
SM City Sta. Mesa
SM City Valenzuela
SM City San Lazaro
Robinsons Metro East
Robinsons Place Manila



Play and display. Mannequins styled to the nines

FRESH, trendy look

SHIRT tales

IT'S BENCH time!

Interior motifs

From page F1

wooden floors and wall panels, using distressed metal with white painted bricks, neutral gray tiles and colored glass, among others. It merges several of the old Park Square boutique elements with more modern pieces for a wholly unique look. The piece de resistance is a grand Victorian couch—an eye-catching study in scarlet that's perfect for all the men attached to their *shoppingera* wives or girlfriends.

The reinvented Bench Rockwell shop shows "edited" versions of items that are seen in regular Bench boutiques. Hence the name: Bench EDITED. Ben Chan personally chose these items for display, led off by pieces from his yet-to-be-seen Holiday collection.

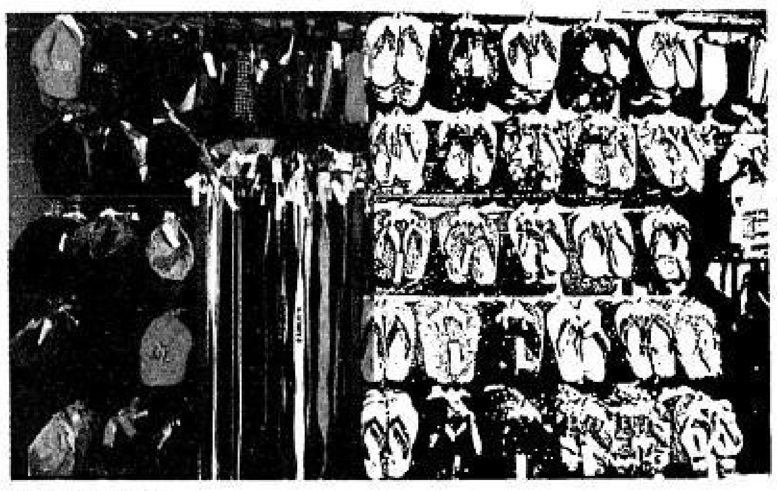
You can say that this store is a fashion laboratory where specific, limited-edition items are available at various times, allowing for an exclusive shopping experience.

A causeway connects the boutique to another exciting shop with exquisite interiors that evoke a rustic, French provincial atmosphere. The shop is Kashieca, another brand with a global sensibility.

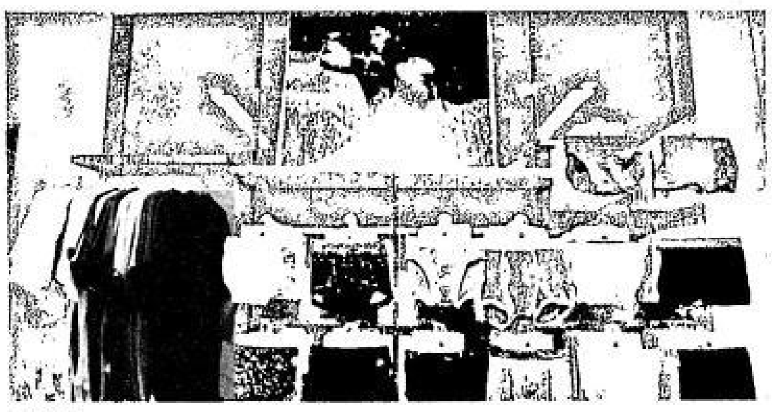
In here, the feeling is feminine, soft and beautiful. The Kashieca boutique lends itself to quiet contemplation of dainty little dresses and ensembles that are airy and light, effortlessly evoking class and pedigree.

These two new boutiques with keen interior-design concepts will hopefully usher in a new trend in local merchandising: communicating the brand's identity through the actual physical space it occupies. After all, a brand should recreate its vision in everything that it touches. In this case, inside out is the ultimate style statement.

E-mail the author at jfashion@gmail.com

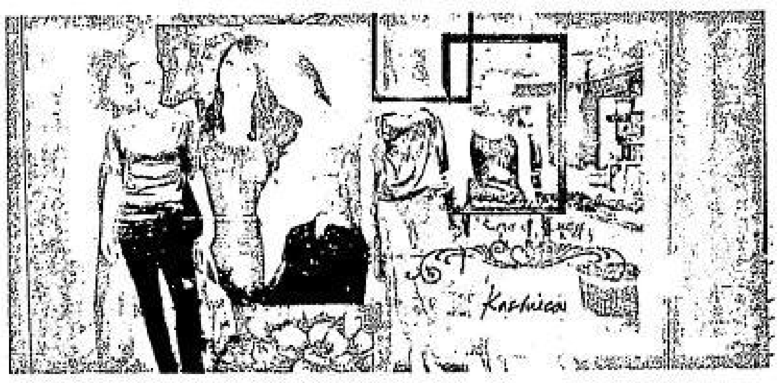


WALK of fame



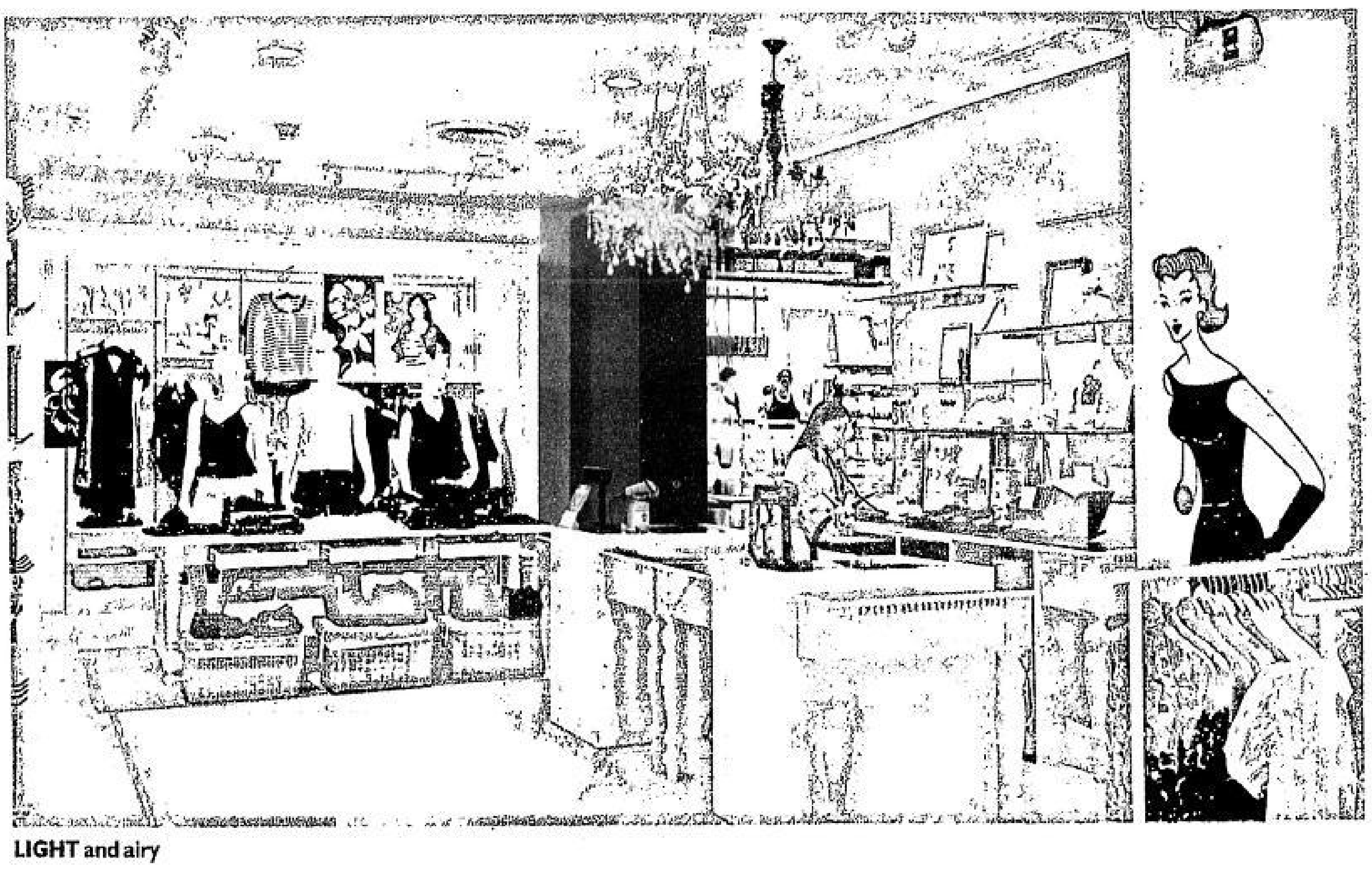
BRIEF encounters

NDOW shopping



KASHIECA'S Best Dressed collection by Kris Aquino and Lucy Torres-Gomez

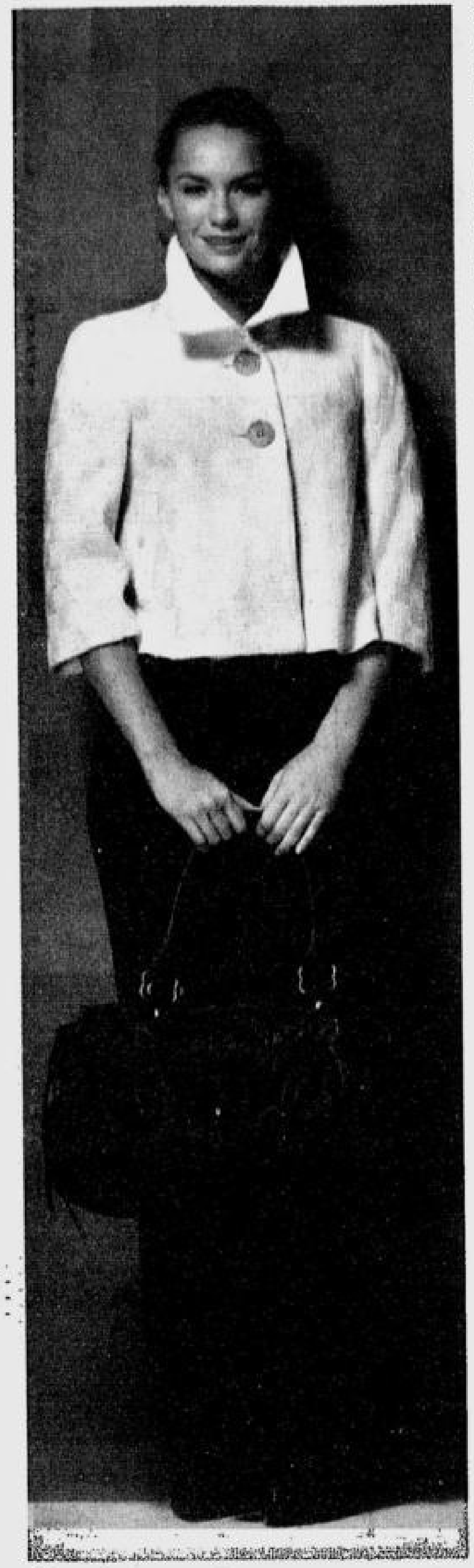
KASHIECA'S coffee-colored clothing collection is better than a caffeine rush.



LIGHT and airy

Tribute to a style icon

Episode Studio takes inspiration from the ultimate Lady of Cool, Jackie Onassis



CREAM high-neck crop jacket and Cookie pants with multi stitch

PAYING HOMAGE TO POPULAR STYLE icons of the past century, Episode Studio delivers a collection that has all the elegant references a girl could want—from sharp and chic to floaty and fun.

The first delivery for Episode Studio takes inspiration from the iconic Lady of Cool of our time, Jackie O. Ladies the world over have tried to imitate the First Lady's sense of style and glamorous panache for fashion. And now Episode Studio offers a group that is '60s-inspired with value-added accessories such as chain belts, putting the essential finishing touches to effortless elegance for you.

This first Fall group brings feminine subtle textures in fabrications in cream, cookie, black and silver with ruby-red accents. The silhouette is structured but cut away from the body with lots of short coats and baby-doll jackets that are the new shapes for the season.

In contrast, trousers are cut tight to the leg to create an updated layering look with dresses over leggings topped with cropped coats or longer knitted cardigan jackets playing with juxtaposing lengths.

The mono-stripe suits are perfect for a traditional professional look that's slightly updated with jackets featuring trademark Jackie O shawl collars or fitted with French cuffs.

Skirts or dress options are slightly A-line. For something more feminine, the printed velvet in distressed vintage print, and wool lace basics are a perfect choice.

With baby-doll jackets, empire-waist dresses, coat dresses and voluminous blouses, the offerings work perfectly back to tight-leg pants or leggings. Expect plenty of chain belts, bow trims or soft lace for finishes.

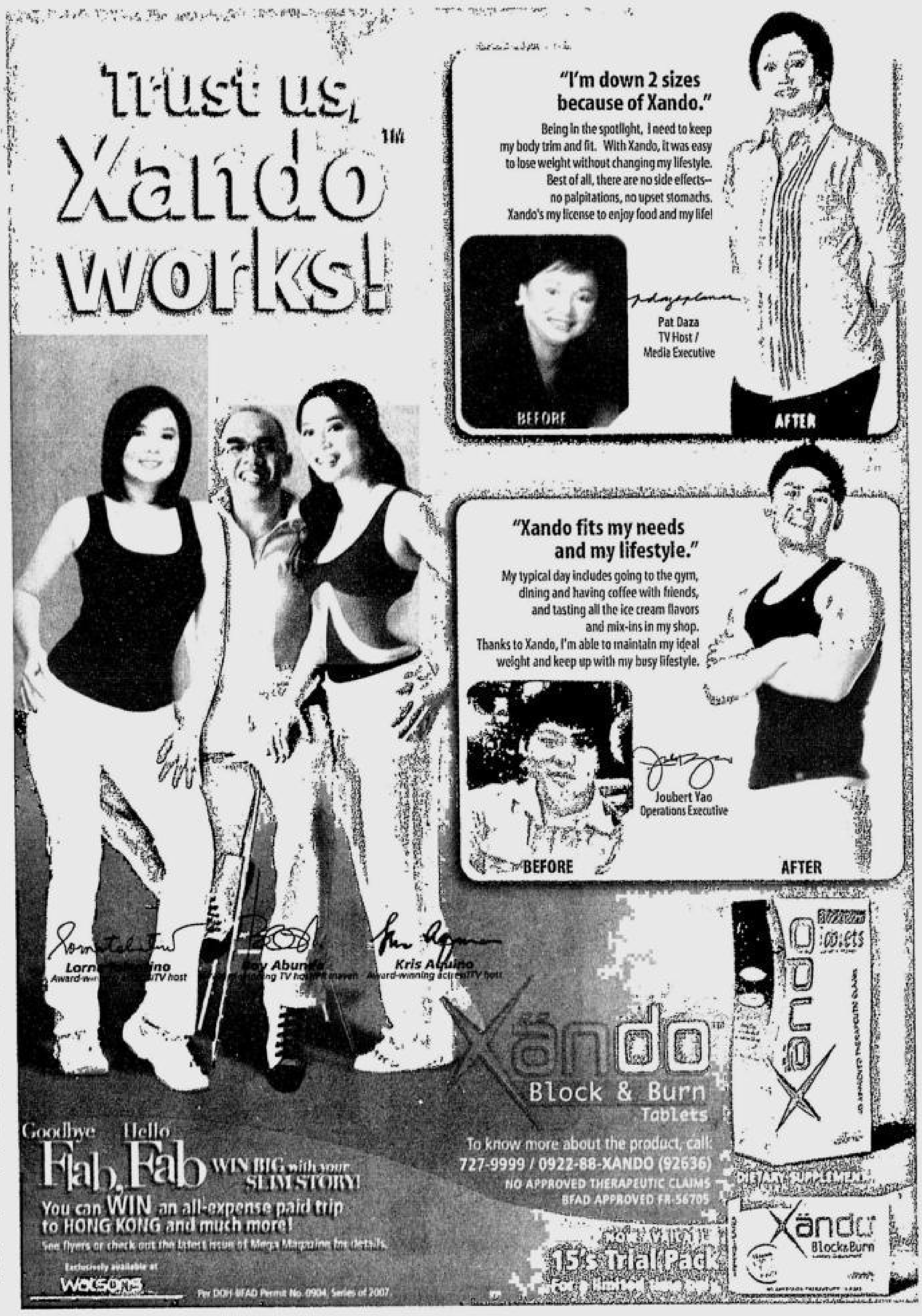
Printed viscose comes in a black-and-cream combination and is light with plenty of fluidity with solid subtle tonal beading details around the hems, cuffs or necklines.

Basket weave is another novelty fabric that offers a heavier weight for more structure that is very "Jackie." Rayon jersey in a gray-and-black oval or solid jersey stretch make easy and comfortable dressing with lots of feminine movement.

Knits feature soft light yarns with a stretch quality for comfort without compromising style. Expect silk cashmere, cool cashmere, cotton lace and viscose stretch in an array of hues to pair with the woven basics or as individual item pieces such as ruby, sea, coral, ivory and pearl gray.

Sweaters are longer with plenty of embellishments and detailing.

Episode is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. and is available at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong.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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0904, Series of 2007

CREAM dress with ribbon belt

COOKIE beaded cardigan, Cookie beaded cap-sleeve top and Grass wide skirt

International Artist Federico Uribe's "Human Nature" installation plays a vital role in PUMA's Fall-Winter Spackle Campaign

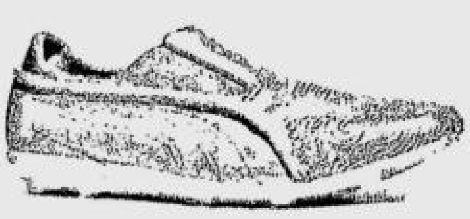
Uribe's rain forest installation consists of animal, insect and plant sculptures that are produced solely from PUMA shoes, with every part of the shoe being used in the exhibition."Human Nature" challenges the individual to witness the violent, voracious and self-destructive characteristics innately found in humans.

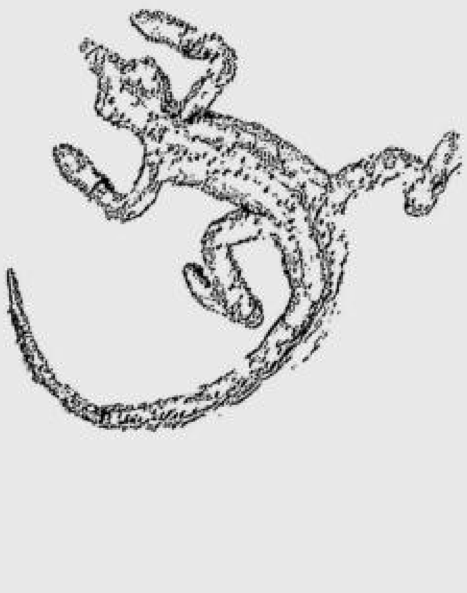
In seeing his past works and Uribe's use of daily objects in art, the idea of using PUMA sneakers as an artistic medium came to life. PUMA's support for Uribe's talent is just one more step in the company's mission to embrace and cultivate talent and collaborative endeavors.

This Fall-Holiday season, PUMA's Spackle Campaign features 3 styles of PUMA footwear - the Yin Women's transformed to a lizard, Tatau Lo Men's to a rabbit, Shanghai Metro Men's to a raccoon. All these styles are already available in PUMA Stores nationwide.

Tatau Lo

Yin Women's





Lizard
Federico Uribe

Soft Leather
Rubber, Plastic Eyes
1524 x 1651 x 305 mm

PUMA®
puma.com

Stranded but not lost

Styles Entertainment kicks off a series of stylish parties in Boracay

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU get stranded in Boracay?

Last Nov. 2-4, Styles Entertainment, in cooperation with Smart myTV, brought Stranded in Boracay.

"No one was really doing a relaxed yet fun party in Boracay with good music for good friends," said Jon Herrera, the man behind Styles and Superklasse in Embassy.

True to Styles' promise, A-list guests and island visitors were treated to their best Boracay weekend ever.

The party kicked off at the Whitehouse beachfront. With RnB/soul music setting the mood for the relaxing afternoon, guests also got to try innovative, dynamic entertainment with Smart myTV.

Using Digital Video Broadcast—Handheld (DVB-H) technology, this latest wonder from Smart and 360 Media allows you to watch your favorite TV shows live, anytime, anywhere.

What could be better than enjoying your favorite show while lounging on the beach with a cocktail? Bacardi Mojito.

Making the drink is simple: Put 12 mint leaves, ½ part sugar and ½ lime in a glass.

Muddle well with a pestle. Add one part Bacardi rum, top off with three parts club soda, stir well, and garnish with sprigs of mint or a lime wheel.

It's the perfect drink for sunset-gazing in the beach. Visit www.bacardimojito.com.

But after the R&R, things started heating up when Bacardi hosted a VIP party at Juice Bar, with Styles' DJ Mars and DJ Ace serving up the finest of rock, hiphop, mashups and electro music.

And just when beach revelers thought that it couldn't get any hotter, the next night, Embassy's most popular night, Bacardi Superklasse Wednesdays, was transposed to the sands of Boracay.

At Club Paraw, Styles DJs gave a taste of everyone's favorite tunes—house, hyphy, rock, hiphop and mashups.

But besides great parties, good vibes and cool tunes, guests also got to experience the sun, sand and sea with other "beach fun" essentials: Nike Vision sunglasses; L-Time Studio watch; Lancôme self-tanners, The Face Shop sunscreen lotions and aromatic massage oils; Polo Black perfume (for the men); and, to always keep their cool, a whole weekend supply of Pepsi and Propel Active Water.

Expect Styles Entertainment to host even bigger and better parties in the months to follow. Jon says Stranded was just the first of a series of beach parties.

"Watch out! It only gets better after Boracay."

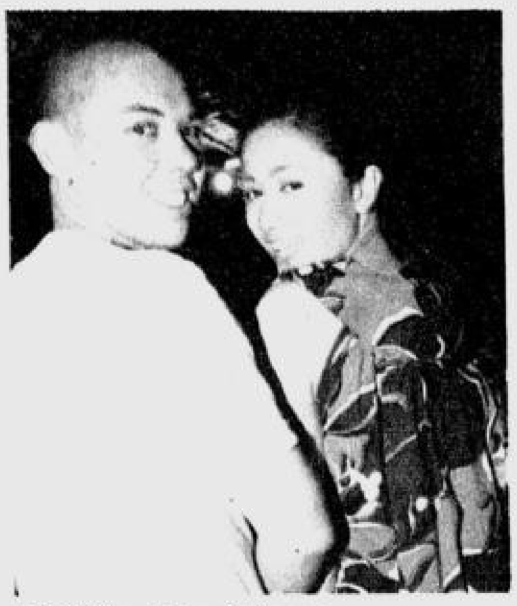
NOKIA N77

JM RODRIGUEZ and Jon Herrera

RICH Herrera and Michelle Madrigal

SMART TV promo people

ROSARIO Herrera and Will Hsu



DJ MARS and Pam Quinones

BACARDI TEAM. Bibe Martinez, Ito Zamora, Kat San Diego and Au Aguilar

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World Of Feng Shui

and

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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SMART

Learn valuable feng shui tips and win prizes

Starting **December 2, 2007, INQUIRER** readers will have a chance to win exciting prizes while discovering valuable information about Feng Shui, the art & science of luck enhancement.

INQUIRER, in partnership with **World Of Feng Shui Philippines** and in cooperation with **SMART & WOLFPAC Mobile Inc.** is bringing back the text trivia promo called **"THESS ALLEN's FENG SHUI WAYS TO WIN – Part Two".** The promotion is in line with the forthcoming **"Marites Allen Philippines 2008 Feng Shui Updates"** on **January 19, 2008 at the Grand Ballroom of the New World Renaissance Hotel – Makati** and hosted by our very own **Philippine Feng Shui expert, MARITES ALLEN.**

The text trivia promo will allow readers to answer one question each day. The answer to the question can be found in a feng shui article to be published every **Sunday of December (Dec. 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2007).** To join, **SMART** and **GLOBE/SUN** subscribers simply have to submit a one – time registration by keying in **THESS REG <name/address/age/gender> (Ex. THESS REG <Bona Sy/Gold St., Marikina City/27/F>)** and send it to **2861.** Only one registration per mobile number will be allowed. To send an entry, **SMART** and **GLOBE/SUN** subscribers simply have to choose from four possible answers to the questions of the day. For every answer the subscriber send s/he gets to download a Feng Shui tip daily.

SAMPLE QUESTION: **1. According to one of the legends about the Chinese zodiac signs, who among the following invited different animals to his birthday feast?**

a) Huang Ti
b) Buddha
c) The Jade Emperor
d) The Emperor's adviser

○ A subscriber can answer by sending **THESS <b> to 2861.** There will be a charge of **P2.50 per entry.** One can send as many entries as s/he wants. Should a subscriber send an incorrect answer, s/he can send in other answers until s/he gets the correct one. There will be **3 daily (Monday to Saturday) winners of 1 World OF Feng Shui Gift Pack.**

○ For every week there will be **One (1) winner of One (1) Washington Inc. GUESS watch; One (1) winner of One (1) MOTOROLA 220 mobile phone from SMART & WOLFPAC MOBILE, Inc. and Two (2) winners of One (1) ticket each for the "Marites Allen Philippines 208 Feng Shui Updates".** Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash. A list of the daily and weekly winners will be published in the **INQUIRER** on **Dec. 14, 21 & 28, 2007** and on **Jan. 7, 2008.**

All **WOFS, PDI, SMART & WOLFPAC MOBILE Inc.** employees and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity are not allowed to join the promo. Metro Manila winners may claim their prizes at **World Of Feng Shui – New Manila Branch (T) 412-6888 / 382-2180).**

WOFS New Manila
6 Unit 8 Broadway Parke,
Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue corner 1st Street,
New Manila, Quezon City

Provincial Winners will receive their prizes via courier upon verification of WOFS Philippines, Inc. For more details, readers may **text THESS and send it to 3918, or text INFO to 0920 – 9509390 or call Hotline Nos. 412 –6888 or 382–2180.**

Per DTI NCR series no.________ of 2007. Promo Period: Dec. 2, 2007 to Jan. 7, 2008

The organizer reserves the right to amend programmes as deemed necessary without prior notice.

Double Your Luck!

"THESS ALLEN 2 FENG SHUI WAYS TO WIN"

FENG SHUI TRIVIA

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Year of The Earth Rat
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WOFS BOUTIQUES:
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Image shown may not show the actual items.

The ONLY holiday shopping event you need to catch!

NOEL the discovery bazaar

CHRISTMAS @2007 shop expo

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

NOV 21-25
WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY
11:00AM - 8:00AM
WORLD TRADE CENTER
METRO MANILA

JEENA Lopez in Calvin Klein sleeveless navy jersey dress, Bally velvet evening bag with gold chain and Bally black patent pumps; and Ernie Lopez in black pants, black suit jacket, Zara white-and-navy long-sleeve stripe shirt, Bally black formal shoes and belt

Double dose of style

JEENA in A/X white polo shirt with silver buttons, Calvin Klein black shorts and Bally patent slip-ons; Ernie in A/X black polo shirt and Bally black leather loafers

WARM COLORS DOMINATE BALLY'S Autumn/Winter '07 collection. For her, it's about rich details and muted elegance. For him, it's about sleek simplicity and chic understatement. And these style hallmarks define the fashion bent of power couple Ernie and Jeena Lopez.

Athletic and adventurous, this couple embodies Bally's vision: a fusion of style, comfort and quality.

"Bally's products are very versatile; the styles are classic but not old-fashioned," says Jeena.

The new collection is filled with vintage-shape handbags with soft pleating for an ultra-feminine vibe.

For the woman-on-the-go like Jeena, Bally's tote bag can be spiced up with bag charms. For evenings, Bally offers unique pieces such as the gold detailed quilted evening bag.

Suede boots are a must-have as well as Bally's classic pair of pumps in dark-bronze crocodile or black leather with ribbon details.

The delicate form of the toe, together with the casual thick heel, create a striking silhouette.

For active guys like Ernie, a variety of bags come in soft textured nubuck with leather or crocodile trim and brushed bronze hardware.

Also, the season ushers in the return of the ankle boot in a modern clean silhouette.

"I like the sporty designs of the casual shoes and also the boots because I like to ride motorcycles," says Ernie.

"I used to think of Bally as my dad's brand, but now they have younger designs that match today's modern lifestyle."

Bally stores are in Greenbelt 4, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Plaza Mall and Rustan's Makati. Bally is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Stores Specialists Inc.

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a month
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with an
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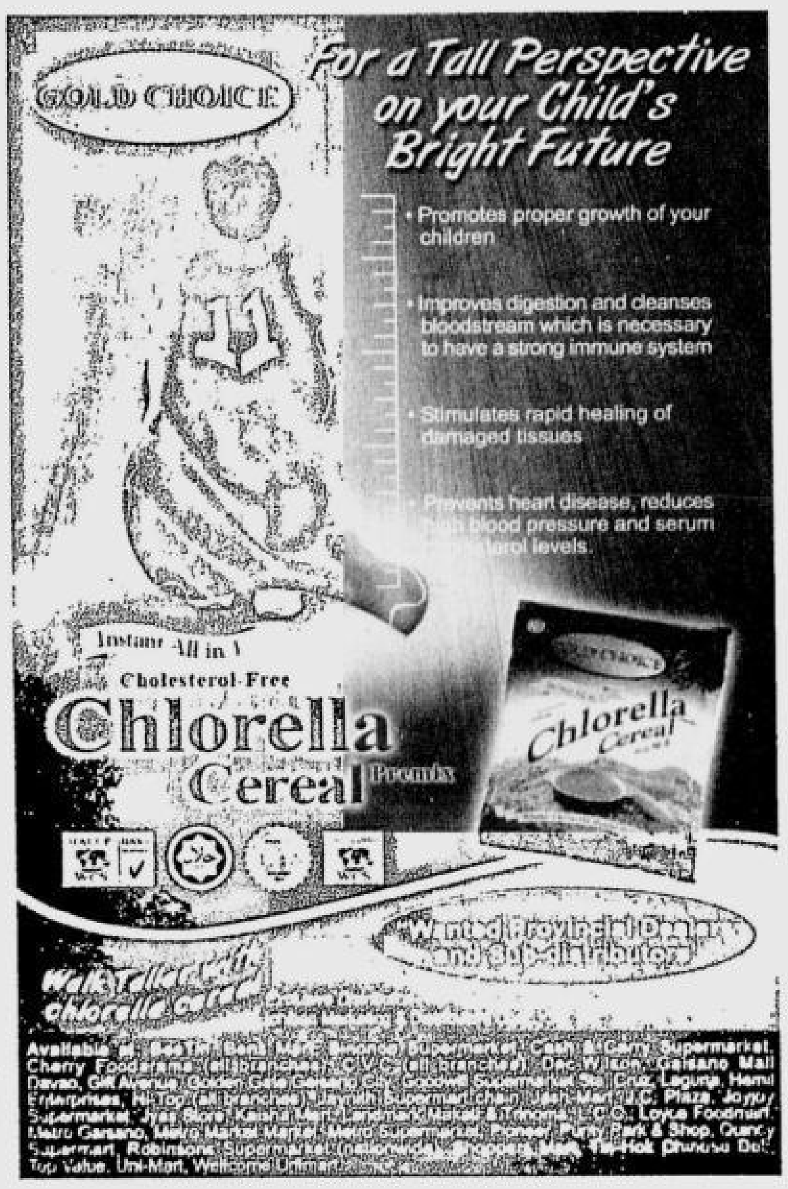

- Promotes proper growth of your children
- Improves digestion and cleanses bloodstream which is necessary to have a strong immune system
- Stimulates rapid healing of damaged tissues
- Prevents heart disease, reduces high blood pressure and serum cholesterol levels.

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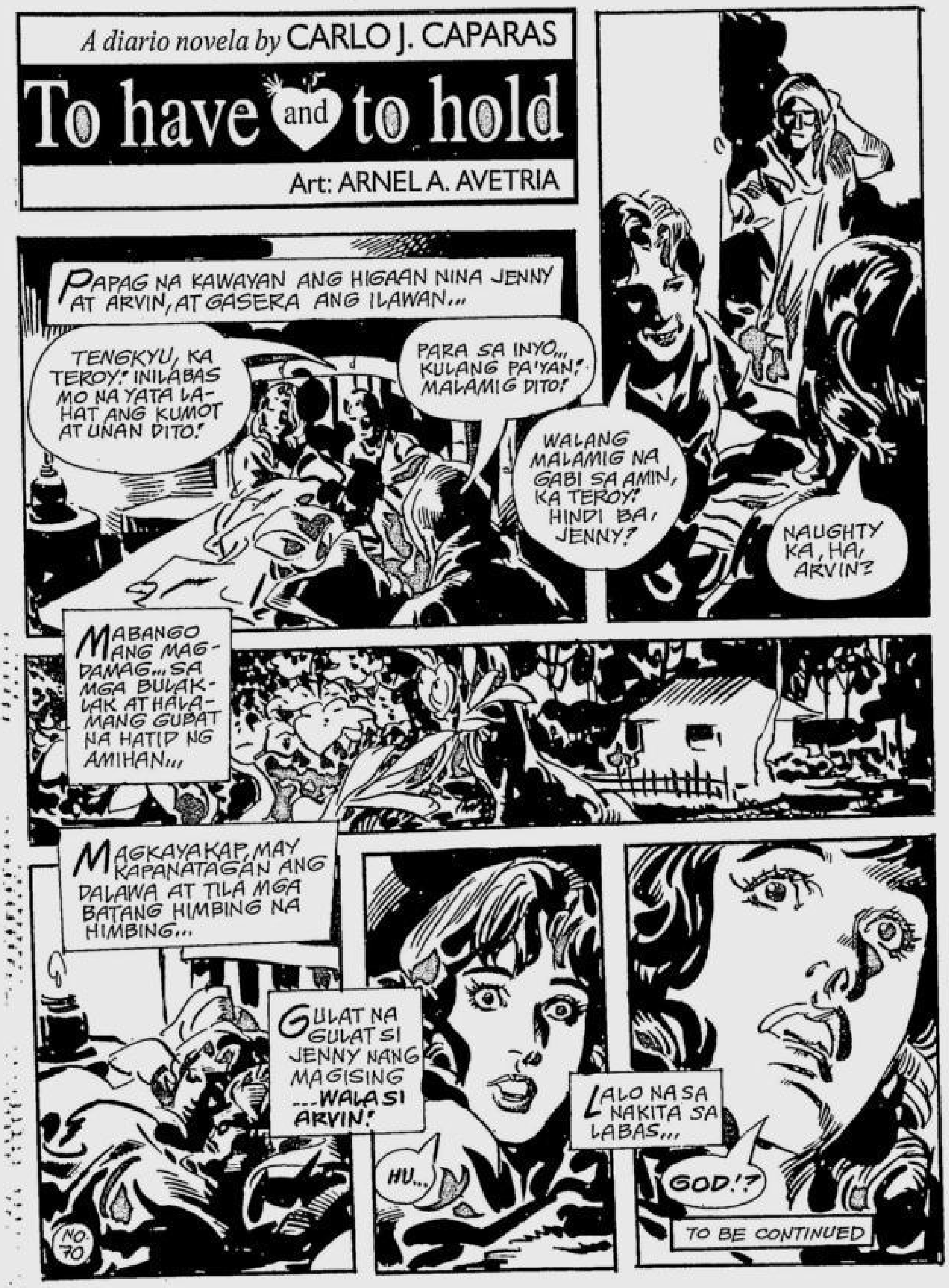
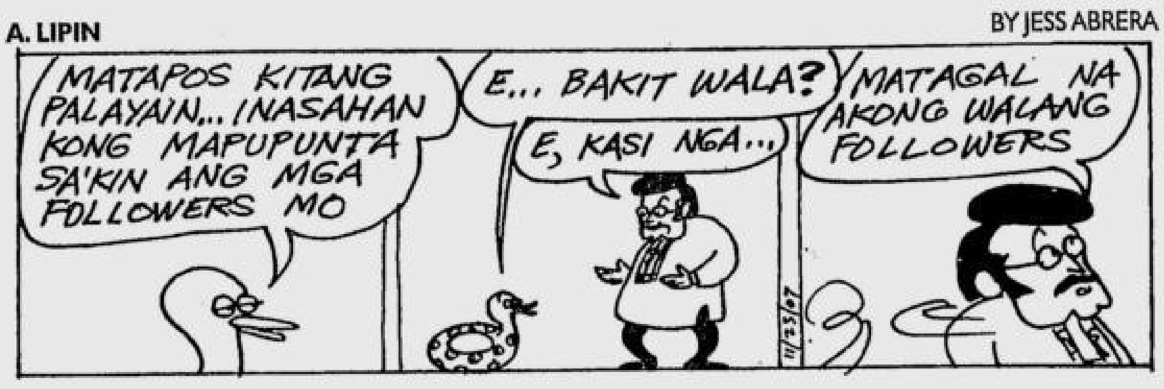

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS
To have and to hold
Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA
PAPAG NA KAWAYAN ANG HIGAAN NINA JENNY AT ARVIN, AT GASERA ANG ILAWAN...
TENGKYU, KA TEROY! INILABAS MO NA YATA LAHAT ANG KUMOT AT UNAN DITO!
PARA SA INYO... KULANG PA'YAN! MALAMIG DITO!
WALANG MALAMIG NA GABI SA AMIN, KA TEROY! HINDI BA, JENNY?
NAUGHTY KA, HA, ARVIN?
MABANGO ANG MAGDAMAG... SA MGA BULAKLAK AT HALAMANG GUBAT NA HATID NG AMIHAN...
MAGKAYAKAP, MAY KAPANATAGAN ANG DALAWA AT TILA MGA BATANG HIMBING NA HIMBING...
GULAT NA GULAT SI JENNY NANG MAGISING ---WALA SI ARVIN!
HU...
LALO NA SA NAKITA SA LABAS...
GOD!?
TO BE CONTINUED
NO. 70

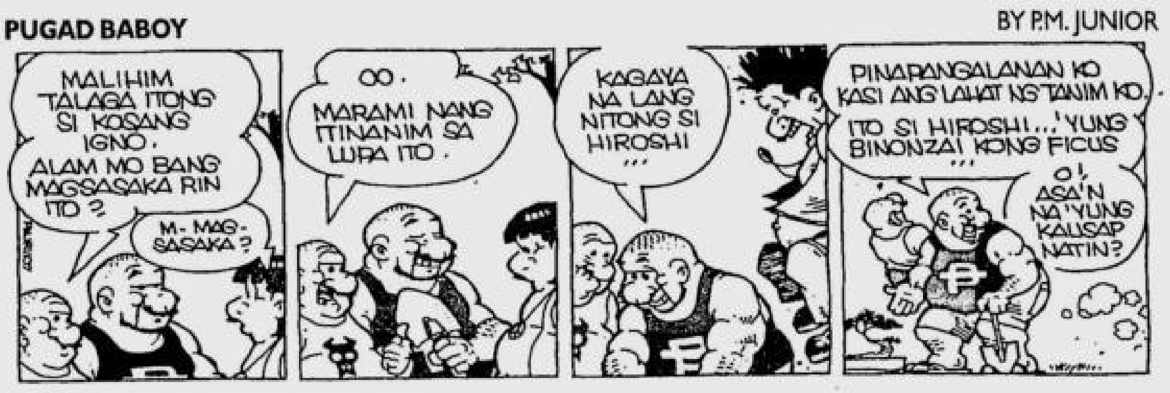
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MATAPOS KITANG PALAYAIN... INASAHAN KONG MAPUPUNTA SA'KIN ANG MGA FOLLOWERS MO
E... BAKIT WALA?
E, KASI NGA...
MATAGAL NA AKONG WALANG FOLLOWERS

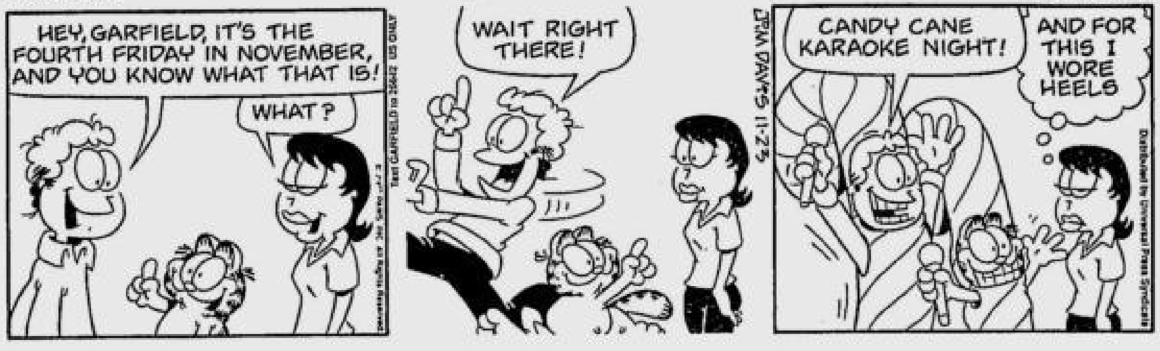
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MALIHIM TALAGA ITONG SI KOSANG IGNO. ALAM MO BANG MAGSASAKA RIN ITO?
M-MAG-SASAKA?
OO. MARAMI NANG ITINANIM SA LUPA ITO.
KAGAYA NA LANG NITONG SI HIROSHI...
PINANGANGALANAN KO KASI ANG LAHAT NG TANIM KO. ITO SI HIROSHI... 'YUNG BINONZAI KONG FICUS...
O! ASA'N NA 'YUNG KAUSAP NATIN?

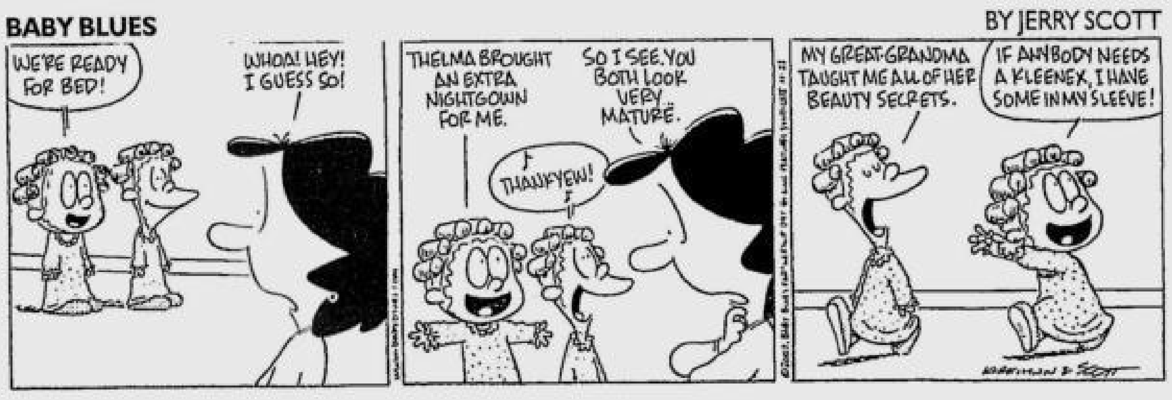
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


HEY, GARFIELD, IT'S THE FOURTH FRIDAY IN NOVEMBER, AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS!
WHAT?
WAIT RIGHT THERE!
JIM DAVIS 11-23
CANDY CANE KARAOKE NIGHT!
AND FOR THIS I WORE HEELS

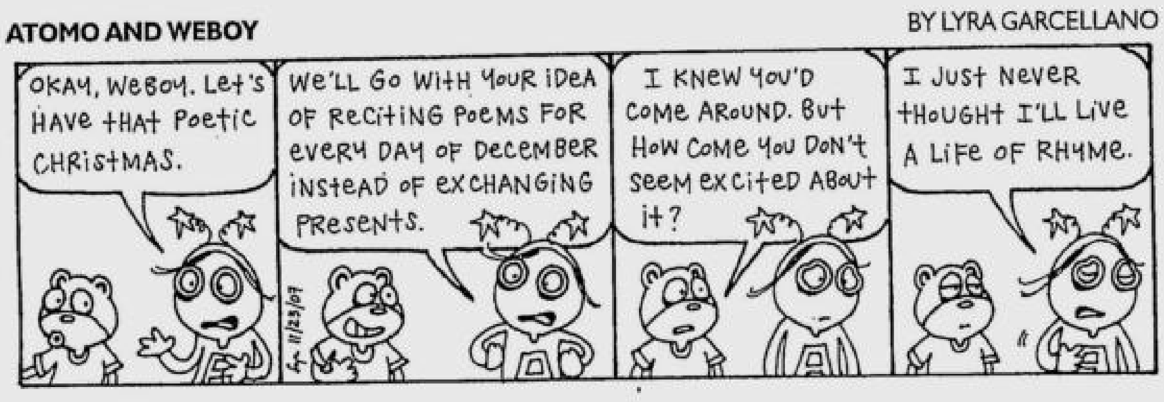
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WE'RE READY FOR BED!
WHOA! HEY! I GUESS SO!
THELMA BROUGHT AN EXTRA NIGHTGOWN FOR ME.
SO I SEE. YOU BOTH LOOK VERY MATURE.
THANKYEW!
MY GREAT-GRANDMA TAUGHT ME ALL OF HER BEAUTY SECRETS.
IF ANYBODY NEEDS A KLEENEX, I HAVE SOME IN MY SLEEVE!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

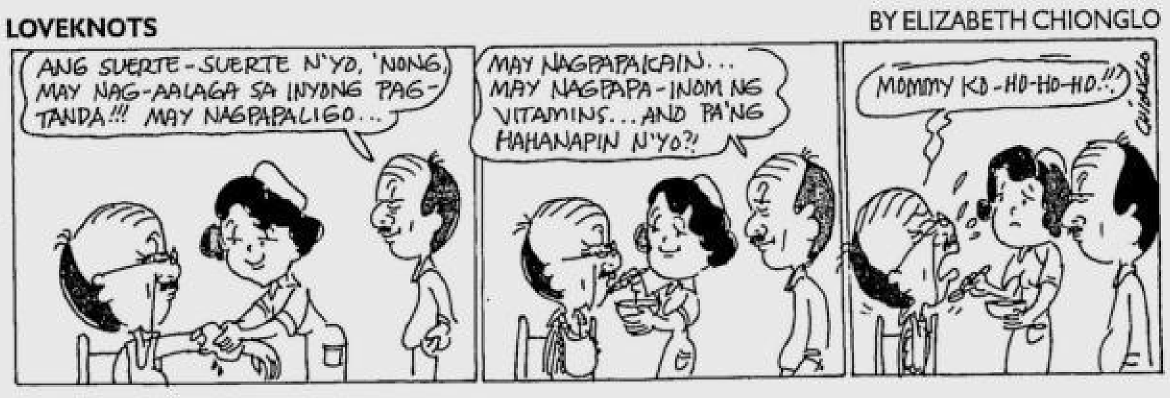
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OKAY, WEBOY. Let's Have that Poetic CHRISTMAS.
We'LL Go With Your iDeA of ReCiting Poems for every Day of December instead of exchanging Presents.
I KNew You'D Come AROUND. But How Come You Don't seem excited About it?
I Just Never thought I'LL Live A Life of RHYME.
11/23/07

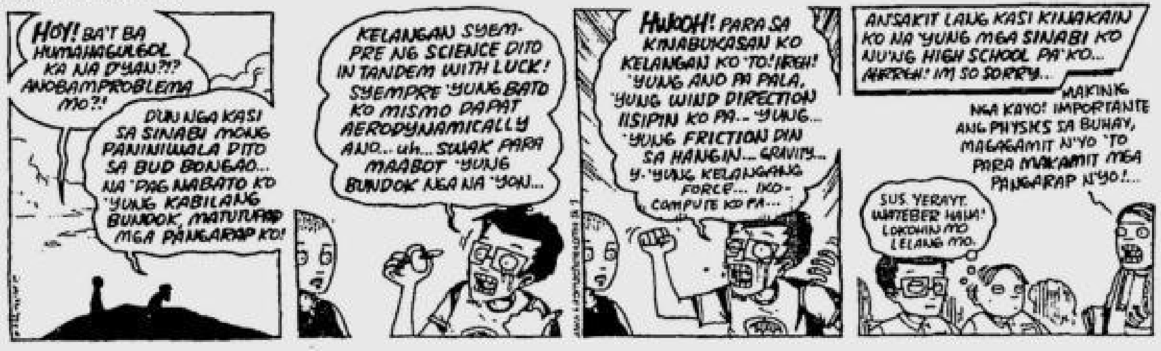
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG SUERTE-SUERTE N'YO, 'NONG, MAY NAG-AALAGA SA INYONG PAG-TANDA!!! MAY NAGPAPALIGO...
MAY NAGPAPAKAIN... MAY NAGPAPA-INOM NG VITAMINS... AND PA'NG HAHANAPIN N'YO?!
MOMMY KO-HO-HO-HO!!
CHIONGLO

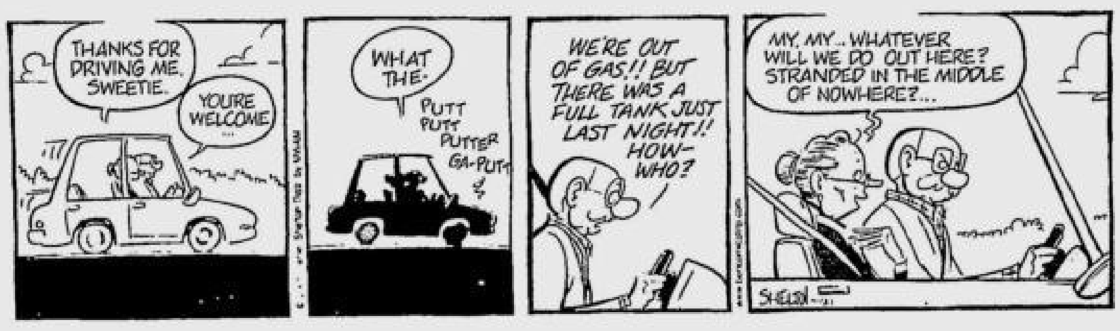
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HOY! BA'T BA HUMAHAGULGOL KA NA D'YAN?!? ANOBAMPROBLEMA MO?!
DUN NGA KASI SA SINABI MONG PANINIWALA DITO SA BUD BONGAO... NA 'PAG NABATO KO 'YUNG KABILANG BUNDOK, MATUTUPAD MGA PANGARAP KO!
KELANGAN SYEMPRE NG SCIENCE DITO IN TANDEM WITH LUCK! SYEMPRE 'YUNG BATO KO MISMO DAPAT AERODYNAMICALLY ANO... uh... SWAK PARA MAABOT 'YUNG BUNDOK NGA NA 'YON...
HWOOH! PARA SA KINABUKASAN KO KELANGAN KO 'TO! IRGH! 'YUNG ANO PA PALA, 'YUNG WIND DIRECTION ISIPIN KO PA... 'YUNG... 'YUNG FRICTION DIN SA HANGIN... GRAVITY... Y-'YUNG KELANGANG FORCE... IKO-COMPUTE KO PA...
ANSAKIT LANG KASI KINAKAIN KO NA 'YUNG MGA SINABI KO NUNG HIGH SCHOOL PA'KO... ARRGH! I'M SO SORRY...
MAKINIG NGA KAYO! IMPORTANTE ANG PHYSICS SA BUHAY, MAGAGAMIT N'YO 'TO PARA MAKAMIT MGA PANGARAP N'YO!...
SUS. YERAYT. WATEBER NAM! LOKOHIN MO LELANG MO.

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THANKS FOR DRIVING ME, SWEETIE.
YOU'RE WELCOME...
WHAT THE-
PUTT PUTT PUTTER GA-PUTT
WE'RE OUT OF GAS!! BUT THERE WAS A FULL TANK JUST LAST NIGHT!! HOW-WHO?
MY, MY... WHATEVER WILL WE DO OUT HERE? STRANDED IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE?...
SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14					■	15				16				
17					18									
19							■	20			■	21		
■	■	■	22				23	■	24		25	■	■	■
26	27	28		■	29			30				31	32	33
34				35	■	■	36							
37			■	38	39	40	■	41			■	42		
43			44				45	■	■	46	47			
48								49	50	■	51			
■	■	■	52			■	53			54		■	■	■
55	56	57	■	58		59	■	60				61	62	63
64			65				66							
67									■	68				
69				■	70				■	71				

By Robert A. Doll
Hattiesburg, MS

11/23/07

ACROSS
1 Packs down tightly
6 Morning moistures
10 Bum (around)
14 Provide gear for
15 Persuasive, powerful discourse
17 Hunk's favorite food?
19 Hobby
20 Made a lap
21 Tennis grouping
22 Highway reversal
24 Grave engraving
26 Rigging support
29 Gambler's favorite food?
34 Couldn't stand
36 Standby armies
37 Gallery draw
38 Hosp. section
41 Coloring agent
42 Cambridge, MA sch.
43 Soak back in
46 Stone marker
48 Knitter's favorite food?
51 Old Gaelic
52 Fancy vase
53 Bombards
55 Doctrine
58 Mil. unit
60 Loss by wear
64 Traveler's favorite food?
67 Our other selves
68 Hindu tunes
69 Memo
70 Deeply engrossed
71 Kind of drum

DOWN
1 Fill-in worker
2 Light greenish-blue
3 Tussle
4 Visualize
5 Leave, slangily
6 Kalahari e.g.
7 Shade tree
8 Sufferings
9 Head on
10 Floral neckwear
11 Individuals
12 Estate unit
13 Units of length
16 Messes up
18 Big birds Down Under
23 SE Asian war
25 La Brea formation
26 Musical symbol
27 Tahitian lava-lava
28 Rose extract
30 Young goat
31 Sights setter
32 Polish spots
33 Cosmetician Lauder
35 Public disturbance
39 One colluding
40 Tell's canton
44 Color of the Italian sky
45 Hit on the head
47 Nuclear cease-fire
49 Most up-to-the-minute
50 Mattress support
54 Old autocrats
55 Land of Isfahan
56 Do it alone
57 Jeff's pal
59 Star in Lyra
61 Pond scum
62 Toothed wheel
63 In __ (in actual being)
65 PGA peg
66 The Republicans

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	A	A	B	■	E	B	R	O	■	S	A	P	P	Y
O	L	I	O	■	S	L	A	T	■	O	T	H	E	R
L	I	M	A	■	P	A	I	R	O	F	T	E	N	S
A	V	E	T	E	R	I	N	A	R	I	A	N	S	■
R	E	D	H	A	I	R	■	■	T	A	R	O	■	■
■	■	■	O	T	T	■	A	R	E	■	■	T	N	N
I	C	T	U	S	■	I	B	E	G	O	F	Y	O	U
N	E	W	S	I	G	N	R	E	A	D	O	P	E	N
T	R	I	E	N	N	I	A	L	■	D	U	E	L	S
O	T	C	■	■	A	T	M	■	S	L	R	■	■	■
■	■	E	W	E	R	■	■	C	H	O	P	S	U	P
■	F	O	R	A	L	T	E	R	A	T	I	O	N	S
H	O	V	E	R	S	O	V	E	R	■	N	A	L	A
O	C	E	A	N	■	R	O	M	E	■	T	R	E	T
D	I	R	K	S	■	S	E	E	D	■	S	S	T	S

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11/23/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a droll sense of humor and often use your wit to smooth over troubled waters. You're free-spirited and highly independent. You believe you should "live and let live." A regular, daily structure suits you. You very much value family and home. Your year ahead will be wonderfully powerful! Opportunities are available to you. Open any door!

Birthdate of: Boris Karloff, actor; Bruce Hornsby, musician; Otis Chandler, publisher.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The Full Moon today makes this a slightly accident-prone day for you—be careful. Slow down. Take your time. And think before you speak.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Confusion about your possessions and your financial interests versus what you share with others is possible today. It's hard to know how to juggle things. In a few days, it will be clear.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is the only Full Moon in your sign all year. Quite likely, it will promote stress with partners and close friends. Be patient. It only lasts 48 hours.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Relations with co-workers and situations at work might be tense right now because of today's Full Moon. Don't push the sides of the envelope. Try to live and let live.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Romance is a bit tense today. High drama is everywhere! Parents must be patient with children. Don't try to do everything. Just cope as best you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're pulled between the demands of home and family versus the demands of your career and your professional life. At this time, you can't ignore family and your private life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Because of the tension of today's Full Moon, your conversations with siblings and relatives could be stressed. Ditto for driving. This is a slightly accident-prone day—be careful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Stay on top of your financial scene. Make friends with your bank account. This particular Full Moon could cause errors related to money and cash flow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Today the Full Moon opposes your sign. In fact, because every Full Moon is an opposition of the Sun and Moon, you're part of this formula. Be extra patient with others today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Enjoy time alone or try to work alone if you can today. Today's Full Moon makes you a bit off-balance. You're not sure if you're coming or going!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Tension with friends or members of groups can arise today because of the Full Moon. Be gentle with others. Don't be quick to take offense.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Avoid religious and political arguments today. People are touchy because of the Full Moon. Be extra careful with travel plans and driving.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

			6	1		2	7	
2							4	5
8		7			3			
3								1
			9			4		8
4	5							9
	1	6		5	2			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/23

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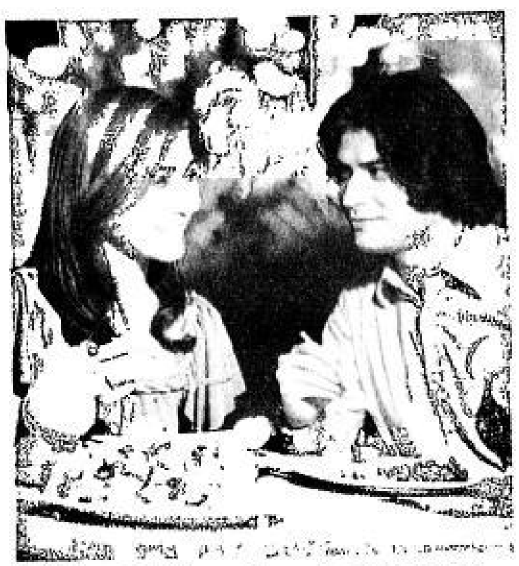
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1
8	4	7	1	2	3	5	6	9
1	5	6	8	7	9	2	3	4
6	3	4	2	9	7	1	5	8
2	1	8	5	6	4	9	7	3
7	9	5	3	8	1	6	4	2
3	7	2	9	4	5	8	1	6
5	8	1	6	3	2	4	9	7
4	6	9	7	1	8	3	2	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/22



On Him: G2000 peach long sleeve polo and khaki jacket. On Her: Flirtish olive green dress.

On Him: G2000 stripe sport shirt, Dockers black slim pants. On Her: Swish brown and orange wrap dress, and brown leggings. Girlshoppe brown strap watch.

Corporate chic

WHAT KIND OF FASHION DO THE YOUNG professionals go for? Mostly, corporate attire with casual chic, the kind available at the Eastwood Cyber & Fashion mall in Eastwood City.

The mall has a wide selection of boutiques on the first and second levels to respond to the fashion requirements of today's yuppies. From tops to shoes, and even electronics accessories, the boutiques are likely to have what the young go-getters need.

For women, there are such shops as Meg, Lai, Isle of Coco, Shapes, Sugaritta, Flirtish, and Preview. These retailers carry ready-to-wear clothes and lingerie in limited stocks and affordable prices. The items can be mixed and matched to make one's wardrobe more versatile.

For exclusive accessories, Girlshoppe is the place to go to.

Men can visit G2000, Levi's, Fused, Hallway, Swish and Dockers for long-wearing casuals that are as suitable in the office as out of it. They are even good enough to be worn to a dinner date after office hours.

As for shoes and leather accessories, Mendrez and Outland offer stylish and affordable pieces.

The right clothes are guaranteed to boost a person's self-confidence and help advance his/her career.

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On Him: G2000 pink stripe long sleeve polo, and gray slacks. On Her: G2000 red short sleeve ruffled polo, gray checkered cropped pants and gray checkered suit. Girlshoppe black patent bag and black watch. Laptop from E-Hub. Cellphone from Abenson.

On Him: Dockers light blue short sleeve stripes polo and pants. On Her: Shapes blue short sleeve wrap polo and gray checkered cropped pants. Meg black bag and silver shoes. Girlshoppe silver hoop earrings.

ON HIM: Fused navy blue embroidered long sleeve polo, Dockers brown pants. On Her: Shapes cream sheer top with inner, Meg khaki cropped pants, White clutch/belt bag, white strap watch, and silver hoop earrings. All accessories from Girlshoppe. Laptop from E-Hub.

On Him: Fused cream tee, Hallway knitted olive green jacket, Dockers khaki slacks, Fused necklace. On Her: Meg red orange polka dot dress, Girlshoppe brown braided belt and bangles.

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GOINGS ON

Wrap it up with Rachy Cuna

LEARN HOW TO PERSONALIZE PRESENTS FOR THE HOLIDAY season from stylist and floral architect Rachy Cuna. Crossings presents "Wrapping it up with Rachy," a gift-wrapping demonstration Nov. 24, 3 p.m., at Shangri-La Plaza Mall Grand Atrium. Cuna will show how to use indigenous materials to create special designs that are easy to do. He will also choose items from Crossings to create festive holiday tables.

MUSICAL SHOW. Robinsons Malls will present a brand new Christmas Special featuring Nickelodeon's most popular heroine, "Dora the Explorer" in her musical show "Dora's Best Friends Day." The series of live musicals kick off, today, at Robinsons Malls. Call 6836355, 6836100 local 791 or 792.

CAMPAIGN. Nickelodeon's Big Help 2007 will end Dec. 1. Modules, games, share squares and photo-op stations will be featured 2-6 p.m. at the SM Mall of Asia Complex, JW Diokno Boulevard corner Coral Way (in front of SMX Convention Center). Donations collected during the event will be given to GK-Batang Bayani.

NATIONAL BOOK WEEK. The 73rd National Book Week will be held Nov. 24-30. Theme is "Family Literacy: Reading Begins with Us." The Philippine Librarians Association Inc., with The National Library, will hold various activities during the week, highlighted by an Outreach Program at Baseco Community, Tondo, Manila on Nov. 23, fun walk and a book character parade. Fellowship luncheon will be held at Kamay Kainan, 1/L, TriNoma, North Edsa QC. on Nov. 30. Call 6370912 loc 229 and 5250926.

HOLIDAY WEEKEND SALE. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall features "Holiday Weekend Sale" on Nov. 30-Dec. 2, Dec. 7-9 and Dec. 14-16. Get as much as 70-percent discount on selected items at the department store, supermarket, Home Gallery, Planet Toys and over 250 shops and specialty stores. With a P300 single or accumulated purchase receipts, a customer gets a chance to win appliances in the raffle. The supermarket's "Scratch Raffle Plus" promo is ongoing until Dec. 31. Every P500 worth of purchases entitles shoppers to a scratch card. Prizes include gift certificates and home appliances.

CONVENTION. The Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners will hold a national convention on Nov. 23-24 at the Occupational Safety and Health Center in Quezon City. With the theme "Enhancing Local Economic Development Through More Effective Planning," the event will showcase "best practices" from selected municipalities, cities and provinces in the areas of increasing local revenues and improving local economic productivity. Call 9209105 or 9273595.

BAZAAR. The Yupangco Exhibits and Shows with Zoobic Foundation (Save A Cub Program) present "Yule-Go-Wild!" a village Christmas bazaar, Dec. 14-16, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. at A Venue Hall, Makati Avenue, Makati. The three-day event features over 200 concessionaires and exhibitors. Call 8999808, 8999828, 8999824 and 8999818.

REUNION. Graduates of Class 1993 of Meycauayan College High School Department will hold a grand reunion on Dec. 1 at the gymnasium of Meycauayan College, Annex Building. Theme is "Makalipas ang Isang Dekada, Kumusta na ang Barkada?" Call 0917-8248129 or 0919-4689528. E-mail elaine.umali@gmail.com or visit http://mcbatch93.multiply.com.

CEU LIBERAL ARTS HOMECOMING. All liberal arts alumni of Centro Escolar University are invited to the CEU 100th Christmas Homecoming Dec. 15, 4 p.m., at the CEU North Quadrangle. Theme is "Fun in Nostalgia at Christmastime!" CEU, which turned 100 years old in June, will honor centennial jubilarians. University president Ma. Cristina Padolina will deliver the homecoming address. A highlight of the event is the launch of the "CEU Centennial" coffee-table book, a project of the CEU centennial committee led by Dr. Rosita Navarro and Dr. Paz I. Lucido, president of the CEU Alumni Foundation and project director. Call 7359662, 7356861 or 7368551 to 54 local 247.

ZERO-PERCENT INTEREST. Sun Cellular is offering the "0% Interest Your Way to a Sun Postpaid Line Promo" until Dec. 31. Those interested can apply for a postpaid line without having to submit the usual documentary requirements. Principal or supplementary card holders of participating locally issued credit cards can visit any Sun Shop, present their credit card, latest billing statement and a valid identification card. Sun's postpaid offer includes the 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited service. Customers can charge to their credit card 24 months of service fees. Call 3858000 or 200 through Sun Cellular. Visit www.suncellular.com.ph.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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INSIDE
Trying not to kiss McDreamy Only In Hollywood /H4

P29
combo 1
1 *Donut + *Coffee Regular
P29
combo 2
5 Munchkins + 1 Coca-Cola
DUNKIN' DONUTS
Pasalubong ng Bayan™
SulitiPid combos
P39
combo 3
2 Cups of *Coffee Regular
P46
combo 4
2 Choco Wackos + 1 Coca-Cola

Bamboo plays music like life itself depended on it

BAMBOO Mañalac of Bamboo

By Pocholo Concepcion

PHOTOS BY EUGENE ARANETA

IT WAS JUST A PROMOTIONAL EVENT for cell phones, a joint production between Alcatel and Smart called "Invasion '07" held recently at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay.

But the excitement generated by the intensity of Bamboo's performance equaled that of a full-blown rock concert.

Hosts Epi Quizon and radio DJ Bono Villanueva worked up the crowd by throwing no-brainer questions and giving away phones. After which a band from Naga City, Pack of Wolves, took the stage as opening act.

The lead guitarist displayed ferocity with his ad libs. But the band's repertoire, although mostly originals, was less than riveting.

When Bamboo came on, the audience howled.

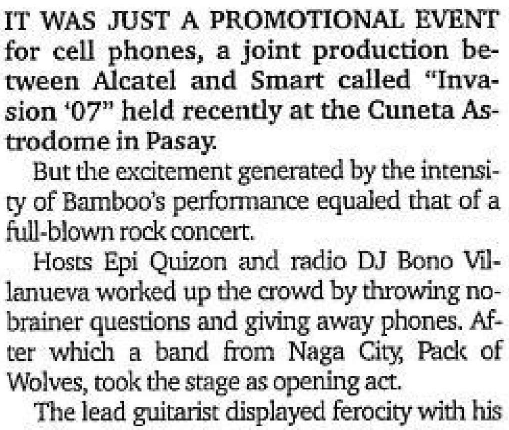
The first song, a cover of Anak Bayan's "Probinsyana," has become a standard opener for Bamboo and, for some reason, always sends female fans hysterical. This happened again at the Astrodome, with several girls shouting out their approval.

Everyone went ecstatic over what came next: a succession of old Rivermaya songs—"Elesi," "Hinahanap-Hanap Kita," "Am I Real," "Awit ng Kabataan," "Kisapmata"—with some Bamboo originals like "F.U." in between.

What did it mean for vocalist Bamboo Mañalac, erstwhile Rivermaya frontman? Was he in a sentimental mood? Or was he reminding us of his roots?

Whatever the reasons, this decision to mix Rivermaya tunes with covers and originals from Bamboo's three albums highlighted Mañalac's growth and the striking direction he has been treading with guitarist Ira Cruz, drummer

BAMBOO/ H3



REMEMBER TONY MANERO
Actor John Travolta attends the 30th anniversary screening of "Saturday Night Fever" held at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Beverly Hills, California on Tuesday.

REUTERS

Coke Yes! LINGGO-LINGGO
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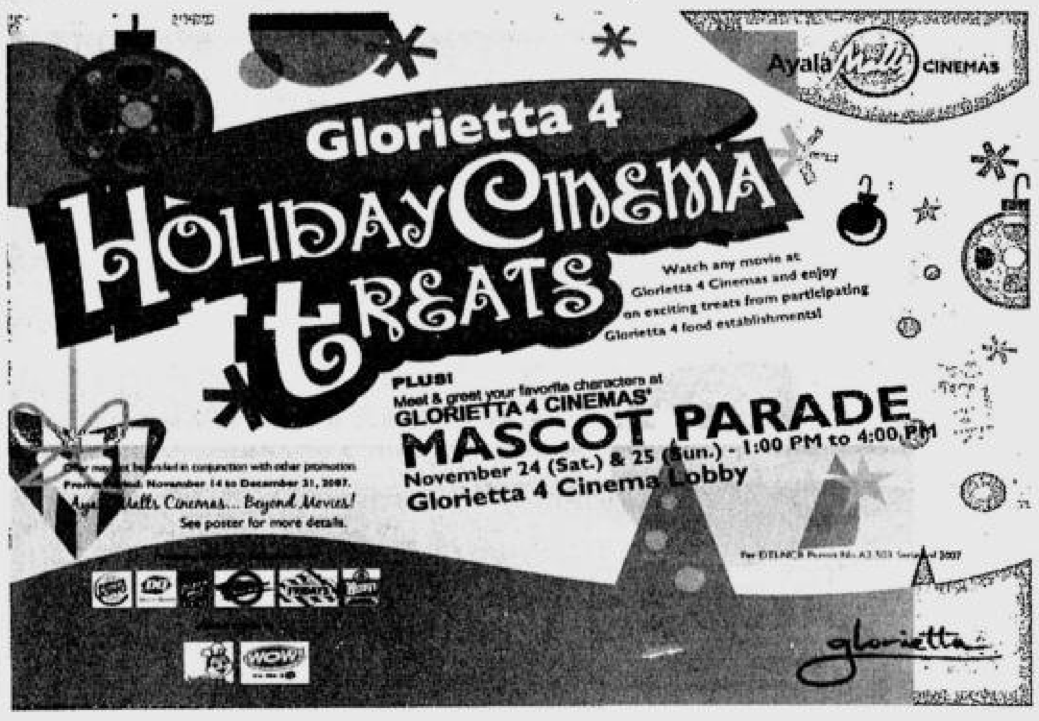
But only on stage

GINA Alajar and Michael de Mesa

SHOW TIME

MICHAEL DE MESA AND GINA Alajar are reunited on stage for Atlantis Productions' "Dogeaters," which runs until Dec. 2 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati. Others in the cast are Joel Torre, Rez Cortez, Leo Rialp, Jon Santos, Andoy Ranay, Chari Ramos, Jenny Jamora, Paolo Rodriguez, Richard Cunanan and Teresa Herrera. Bobby Garcia directs. Call 892-7078 or 840-1187.



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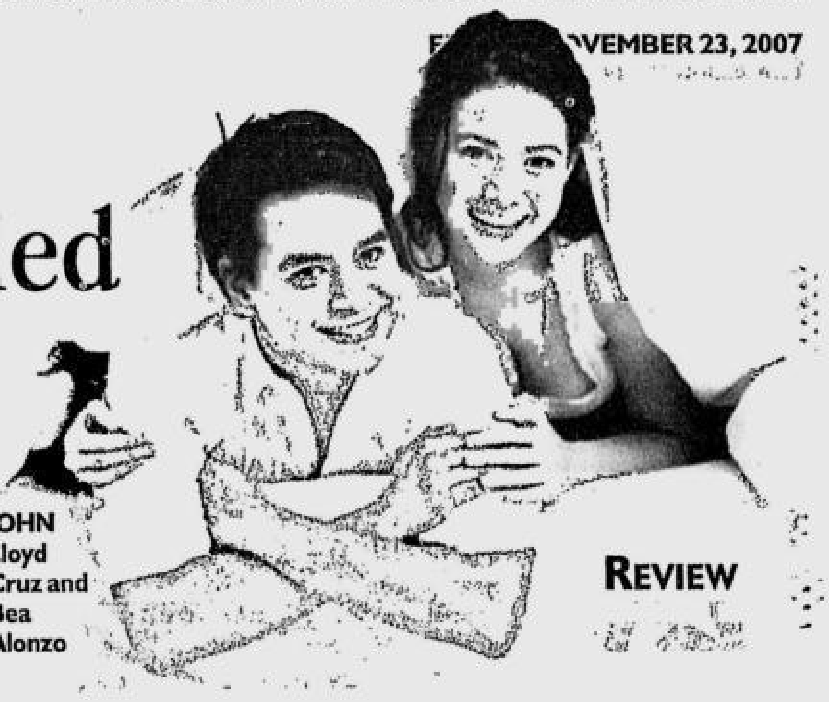
glorietta

He cried, she cried



JOHN Lloyd Cruz and Bea Alonzo

REVIEW

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL tele-novela love teams makes a smooth transition into grownup territory, and it's about time. John Lloyd Cruz and Bea Alonzo expertly take on college sweethearts-turned-bitter exes in the drama "One More Chance," directed by Cathy Garcia-Molina ("You Got Me"). It's an unabashed and relentless tearjerker, but it works, given the fact that the story is about a relationship gone sour.

The grief, the heart-wrenching dilemmas and painful confrontations are familiar and tangible, especially to those who've been through similar confusing breakups. It's not your typical Pinoy date movie; it's thematically heavier, and seriously analyzes the partners' feelings and emotional states before and after the split-up.

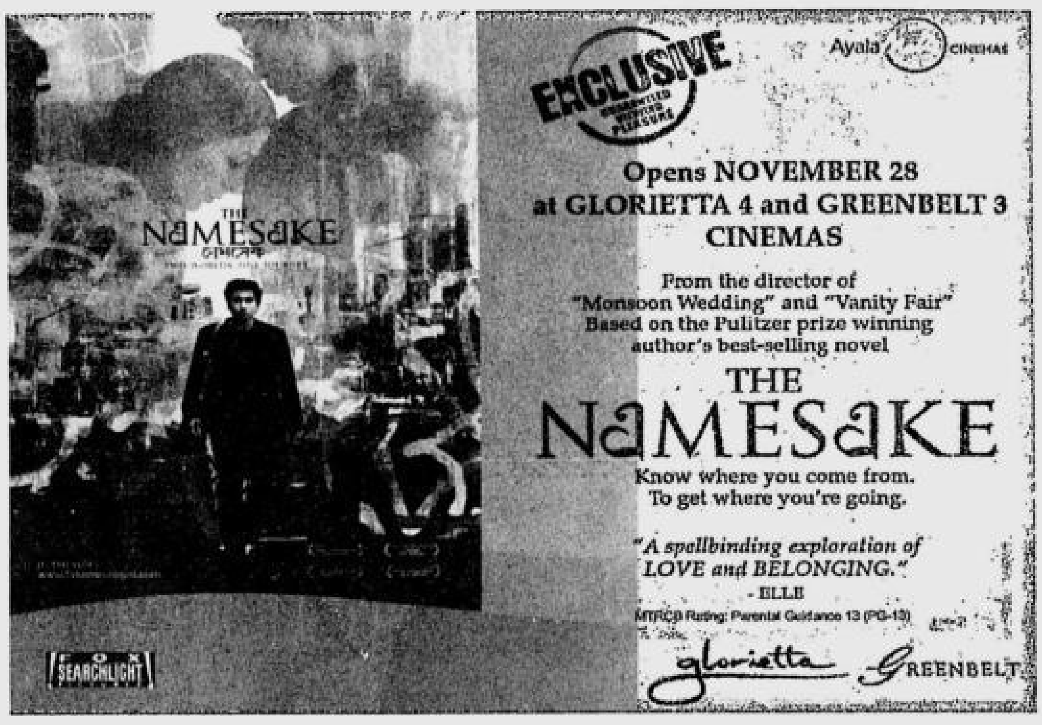
It's not entirely dour. It starts by humorously providing opposite perspectives, to illustrate how differently the main characters react to a misunderstanding.

Long-time lovers Popoy (Cruz), an engineer, and Basha (Alonzo), an architect, don't look like a perfect match at first. They have tiffs that indicate how much they've changed, not necessarily for the better. Basha feels constricted, while Popoy is clueless that he's become controlling. Though he means well, he comes across as too cautious and demanding, forcing Basha to dump him. Newfound freedom soon affords her the growth that's eluded her for years.

Popoy refuses to accept that their wedding has been called off. He tries to drown his sorrows in a bar, where he meets a singer, Trisha (Maja Salvador). With her help, he starts to heal.

The story unfolds typically—heart-tugging and *kilig* moments are placed where one might expect them. And its structure and message don't deviate much from the usual ill-fated romance drama.

Still, there are pleasant surprises. Basha's new architect friend, Mark (Derek Ramsay), remains a good one, without becoming amorous. There are touches of wit and snappy repartee, most notably in Popoy's and Basha's interactions with their tight *barkada*. Which is good, because all that crying can really be depressing.



Ayala Malls CINEMAS
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'Born Genius'

CLICK!

GIFTED child Marc Yu

AT 2 YEARS OLD, MARC YU taught himself how to play "Mary Had a Little Lamb" on the piano. One year later, he was tackling Beethoven.

Marc also has perfect pitch—the ability to identify musical notes as easily as identifying colors—a skill that only one in 10,000 people can claim.

How did Marc develop his amazing music ability? Did his exposure to music at a very early age shape his penchant for music or was he born brilliant?

Do children who are nurtured to learn at a very young age excel more easily than their peers? What happens if a child misses out on crucial brain stimulation early in life?

"My Brilliant Brain: Born Genius," which airs Nov. 26, 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, investigates whether nature gifts some children with a "genius gene" while also examining the role nurture plays in shaping intelligence.

The show replays on Nov. 27 at 1 a.m.

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
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GLORIETTA 1	1	ENCHANTED	
	2	HITMAN	
	3	BEOWULF	
	4	ONE MORE CHANCE	
GLORIETTA 4	1	ONE MORE CHANCE	
	2	BEOWULF	
	3 THX	HITMAN	GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	THE NANNY DIARIES	
	5	ENCHANTED	
	6	ENCHANTED	
	7	THE GAMEPLAN	
GREENBELT 1	1	HITMAN	
	2	ONE MORE CHANCE	
GREENBELT 3	1 THX	HITMAN	GUARANTEED SEATS
	2 THX	ENCHANTED	GUARANTEED SEATS
	3	ENCHANTED	GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	SUPER BAD	GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	BEOWULF	GUARANTEED SEATS
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX	ENCHANTED	
	2	HITMAN	
	3	ONE MORE CHANCE	
	4	ENCHANTED	
	5	BEOWULF	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	ENCHANTED	
	2	HITMAN	
	3	ONE MORE CHANCE	
	4	BEOWULF	
MARKET! MARKET!	1	ONE MORE CHANCE	
	2	BEOWULF	
	3	THE NANNY DIARIES	
	4	HITMAN	
	5	ENCHANTED	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1	ONE MORE CHANCE	
	2	THE GAMEPLAN	
	3	HITMAN	GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	BEOWULF	GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	THE NANNY DIARIES	
	6	ENCHANTED	
	7 THX	ENCHANTED	GUARANTEED SEATS

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta	Sounds of Christmas: Christmas Chorale feat. Phil. Jesuit Community November 24; 6pm; Glorietta 4 Park
GREENBELT	Holiday Open Concert November 24 & Dec 2; 8pm; Greenbelt 3 Park
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Seussical The Musical November 23 to 25; 11am, 3pm & 6pm; Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Metrobank Car Event November 24 to 25; Activity Center, Paseos and Rotunda Area
MARKET! MARKET!	Lifestyle and Vanity Outlet Sale November 19 to 23; Activity Center
Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents FIDDLER ON THE ROOF November 9 - December 16, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	WATER: THE MEDIUM by Juvenal Sanso November 24 to January 13, 2008; Ground Floor Gallery For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Sam Concepcion with the Augustinian Larks December 9; 6pm; Activity Center Rhythm Academy: Pops Fernandez and The UP Cherubim and Seraphim December 16; 6pm; Activity Center

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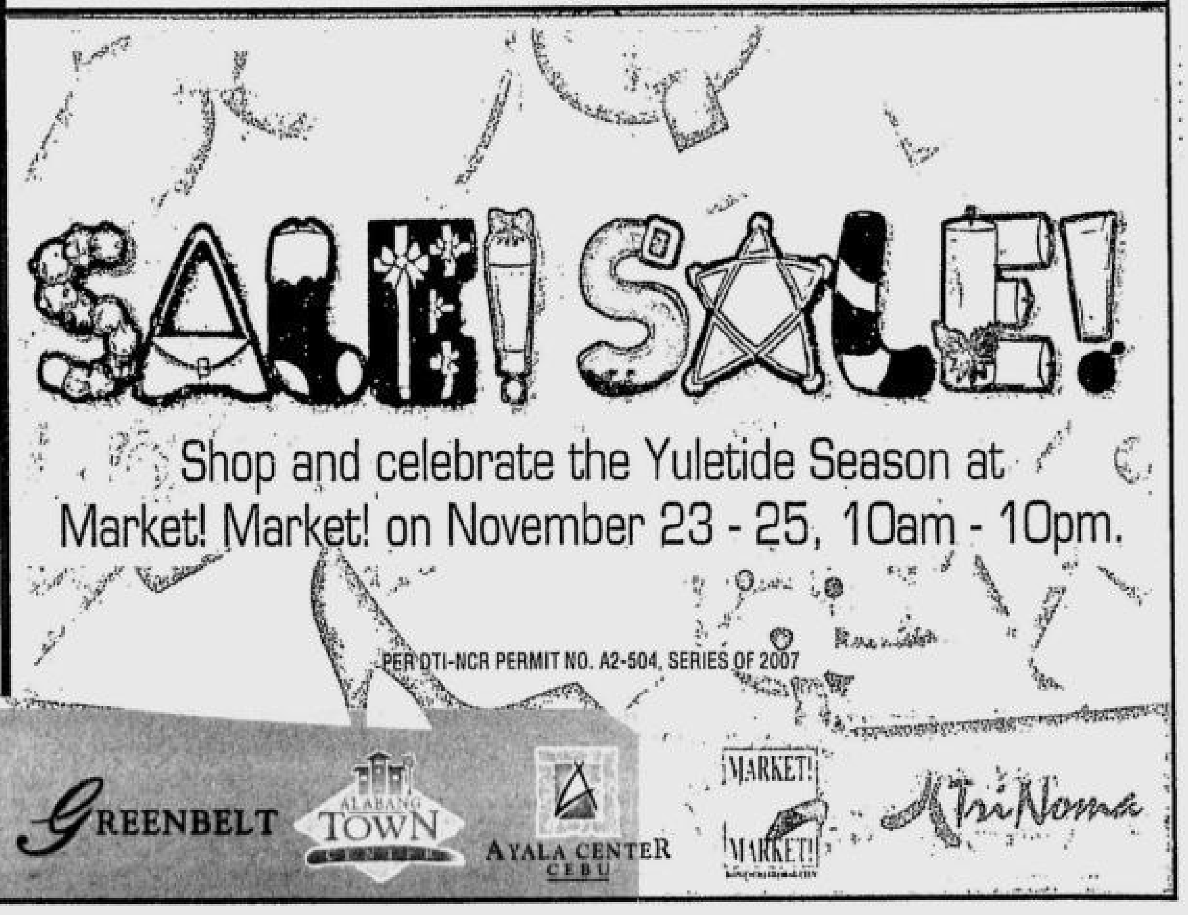

SALE! SALE!
Shop and celebrate the Yuletide Season at Market! Market! on November 23 - 25, 10am - 10pm.
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glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

THE BAND pulls out all the stops in its performance.

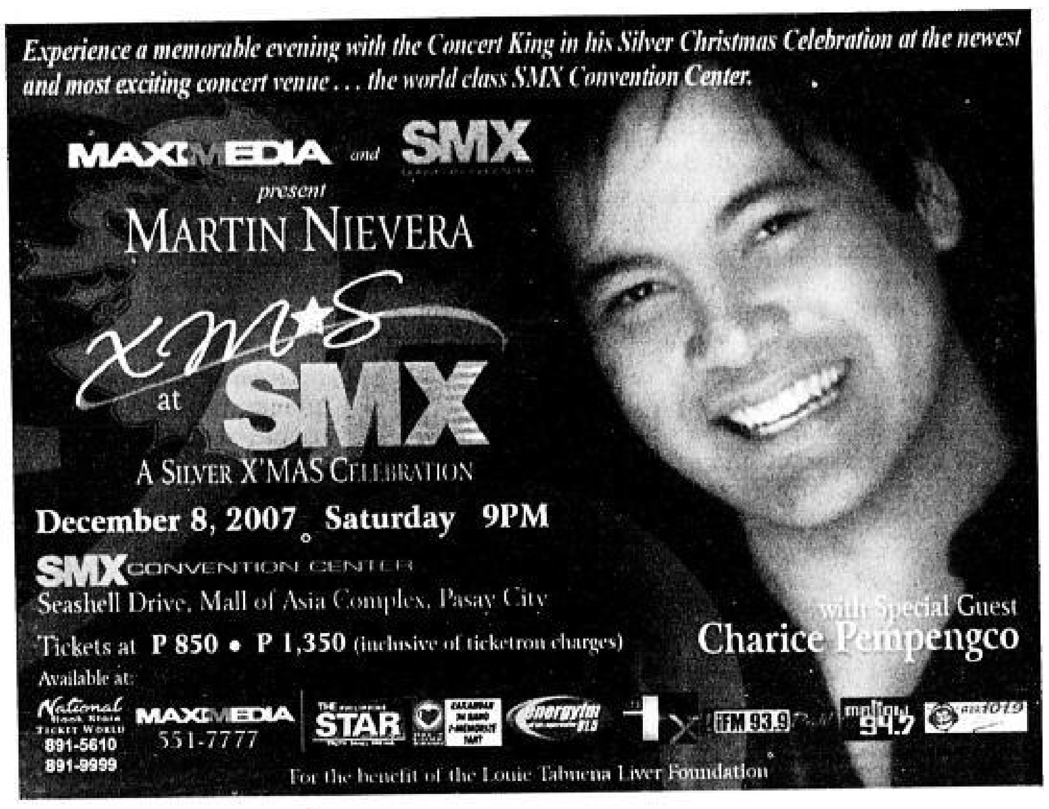
Bamboo plays music...

From page H1

Vic Mercado and bassist Nathan Azarcon (also a Rivermaya alumnus).

The last three songs sent a strong message about the power and influence that good music could wield. "Tatsulok," a cover of Buklod's folk classic about social iniquity, took a fiery form, featuring a twin guitar attack from Cruz and session musician Jeff de Castro. "Noypi" boosted racial pride, and "Hallelujah" raised hopes about the future—impassioned sentiments from a guy like Mañalac who lived in America after leaving Rivermaya.

Whether these songs would change the lives of hard-up teenagers in the audience is a pipe dream. But one thing was clear. Bamboo has become the biggest band in the country—not only for the songs, but because the members play music like their lives depended on it.



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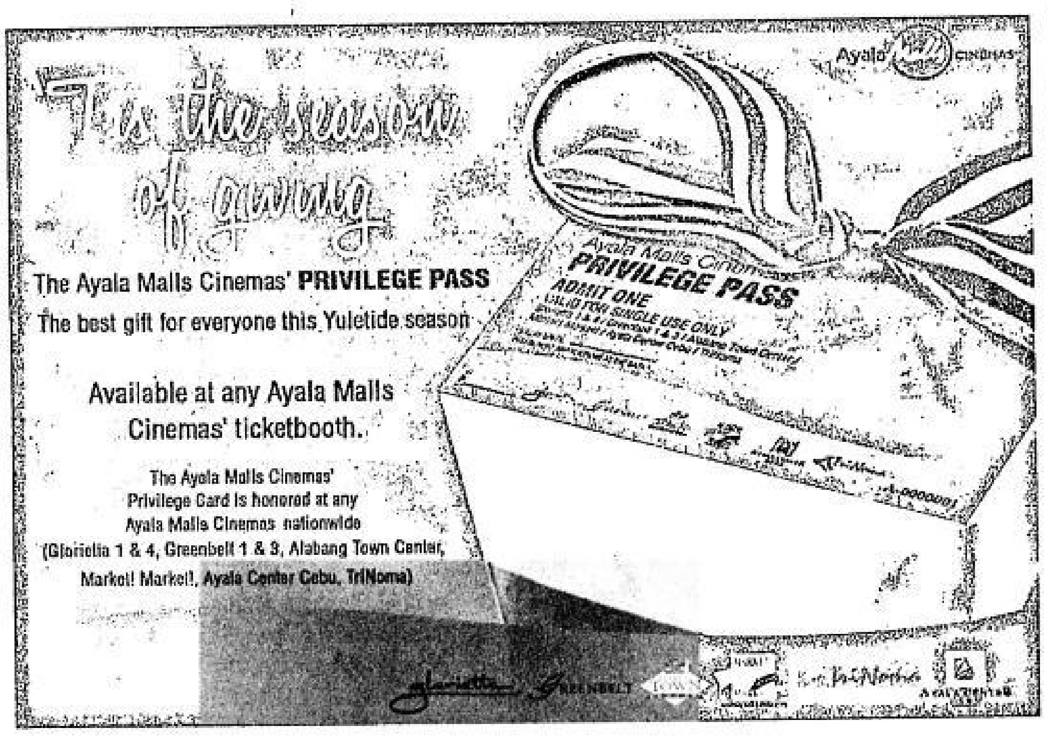

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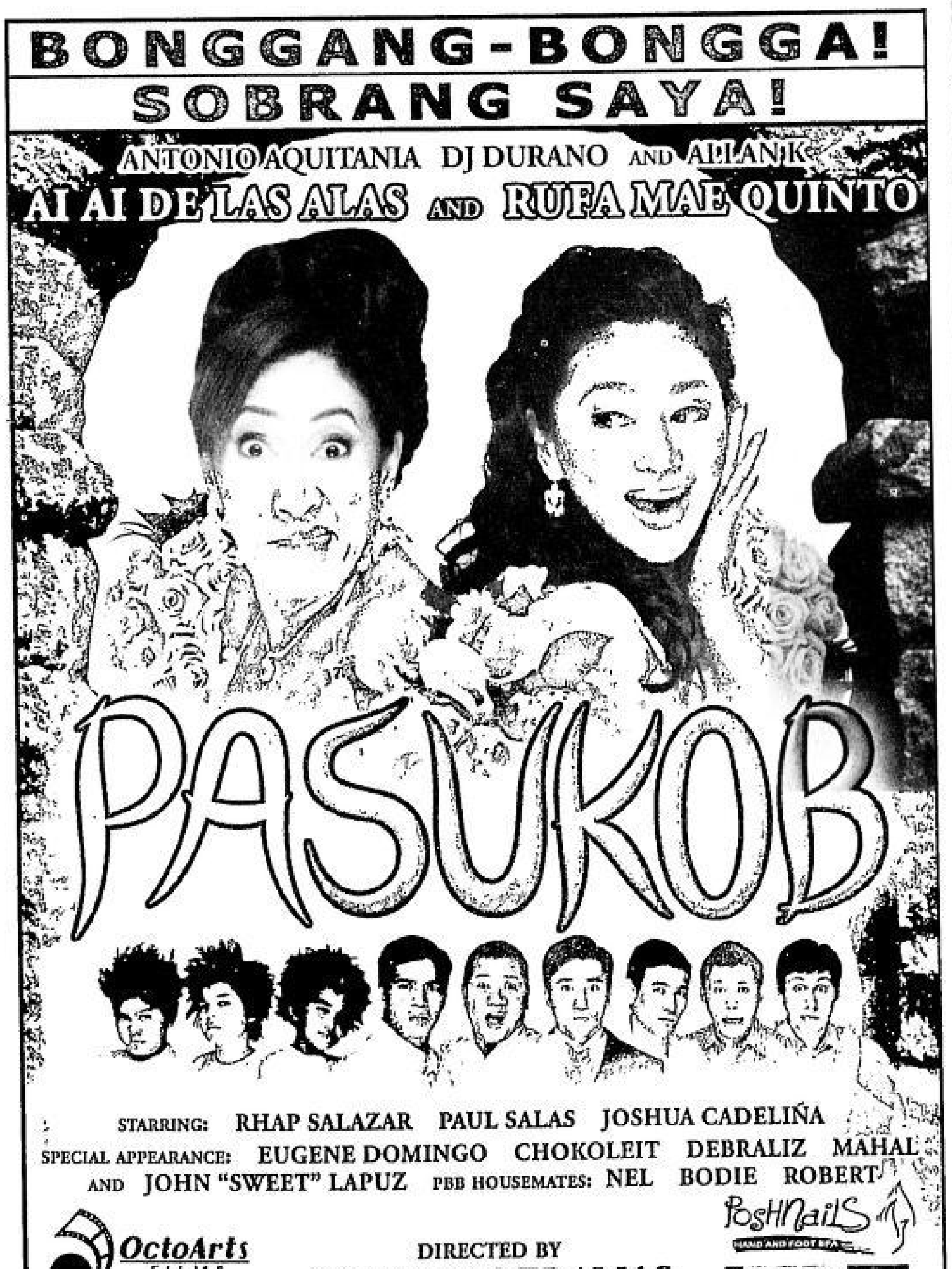

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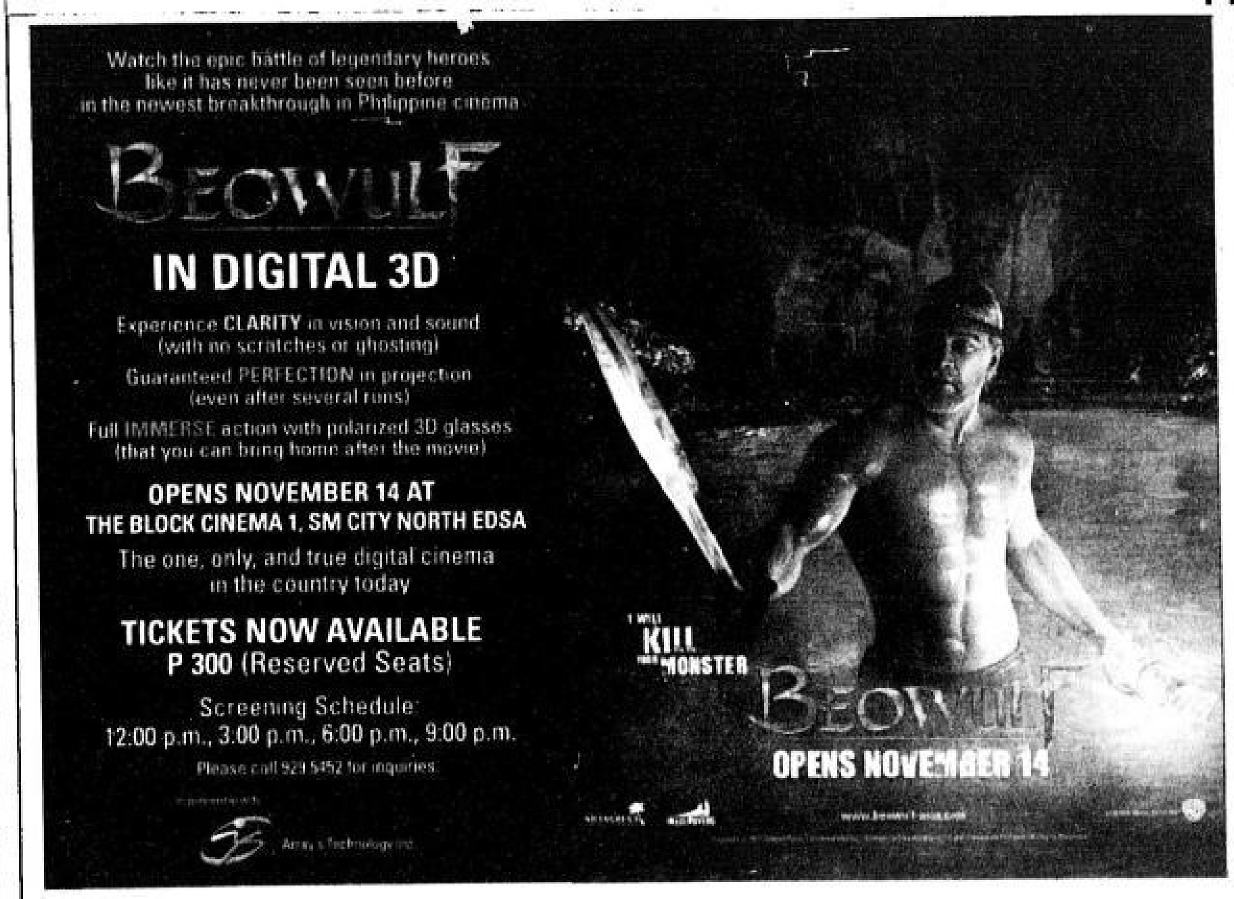

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5. THE NANNY DIARIES
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3. HITMAN
4. ONE MORE CHANCE
5. HITMAN
6. ONE MORE CHANCE
7. ENCHANTED
8. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
9. BOOGEYMAN 2
10. THE GAME PLAN
11. BEOWULF
12. ONE MORE CHANCE

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1. ENCHANTED
2. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3. BEOWULF
4. ENCHANTED
5. LIONS FOR LAMBS
6. HITMAN
7. BOOGEYMAN 2
8. HIDE & SEEK
9. ONE MORE CHANCE
10. ONE MORE CHANCE
11. THE GAME PLAN
12. THE NANNY DIARIES

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1. LIONS FOR LAMBS
2. ONE MORE CHANCE
3. THE GAME PLAN
4. BEOWULF
5. HIDE & SEEK
6. BOOGEYMAN 2
7. HITMAN
8. ONE MORE CHANCE
9. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
10. THE GHOST SON
11. ENCHANTED
12. THE NANNY DIARIES

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1. HITMAN
2. ENCHANTED
3. ONE MORE CHANCE
4. BEOWULF

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1. ONE MORE CHANCE
2. BEOWULF
3. HITMAN
4. ENCHANTED
5. ONE MORE CHANCE/ BOOGEYMAN 2
6. ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1. BEOWULF
2. ONE MORE CHANCE
3. HITMAN
4. ENCHANTED

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1. HITMAN
2. ONE MORE CHANCE
3. THE NANNY DIARIES
4. ENCHANTED
5. BEOWULF
6. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
7. BOOGEYMAN 2
8. HIDE & SEEK
9. WE OWN THE NIGHT

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1. HITMAN
2. BEOWULF
3. ONE MORE CHANCE
4. THE GAME PLAN
5. ENCHANTED
6. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
7. THE NANNY DIARIES
8. HIDE & SEEK
9. BOOGEYMAN 2
10. LIONS FOR LAMBS

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2. ENCHANTED
3. HITMAN
4. BEOWULF

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1. BEOWULF
2. HITMAN
3. WE OWN THE NIGHT
4. ONE MORE CHANCE
5. ENCHANTED
6. RESERVED
7. BOOGEYMAN 2
8. HIDE & SEEK
9. ONE MORE CHANCE
10. THE GAME PLAN
11. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
12. THE NANNY DIARIES

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2. HITMAN
3. ONE MORE CHANCE
4. BEOWULF

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8. BOOGEYMAN 2

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4. LIONS FOR LAMBS

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2. ONE MORE CHANCE
3. HITMAN
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4. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
5. THE GHOST SON
6. ONE MORE CHANCE

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3. ONE MORE CHANCE
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2. ENCHANTED
3. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4. BEOWULF

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3. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
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4. HITMAN
5. ONE MORE CHANCE
6. ONE MORE CHANCE

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2. ONE MORE CHANCE
3. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
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3. ONE MORE CHANCE
4. UNREST
5. BALLS OF FURY
6. ENCHANTED

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3. ONE MORE CHANCE
4. ENCHANTED
5. BEOWULF
6. EL CANTANTE
7. RESERVED
8. RESERVED

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6. ATAUL FOR RENT
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8. ONE MORE CHANCE

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'Enchanted' star's toughest challenge: To be kissed by 'McDreamy' and not kiss back

ENCHANTED by Amy Adams' performance, Variety recently "crowned (her) the fairest in the land."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"I THINK the biggest challenge was not kissing the boys (Patrick Dempsey and James Marsden) back when they were kissing me as I was lying in the chaise lounge," Amy Adams said of a scene in Disney's "Enchanted."

To avoid giving away a crucial ending plot element, let's just say Mr. McDreamy and James vie to give a "true love's kiss" to Amy's Princess Giselle. "No, I'm kidding," quipped Amy about her statement that it was tough to just lie there while the two guys alternately kissed her, take after take.

For the record, Amy already found her true love in **Darren Le Gallo**. She gushed, "He's also an actor. So for him to be able to stand by me through the Academy Award (Best Supporting Actress) nomination (for 'Junebug' in 2005) with no amount of jealousy or competitiveness and be truly supportive, I couldn't have asked for a better partner."

Amy was hailed by Variety as a new star not seen since **Julie Andrews**. That's quite a praise.

Here's the rave by Variety's **Todd McCarthy**: "A full-blown musical that commutes between Disney's patented cartoon universe and the 'real' world with cleverness and grace, this splashy production reminds one of... 'Mary Poppins,' not least due to the 'star is born' aura that surrounds Amy Adams here, just as it did Julie Andrews 43 years ago. Just as Andrews arrived at just the right time for 'Mary Poppins' and 'The Sound of Music,' so has Adams turned up almost out of nowhere ('Junebug' notwithstanding) to be crowned the fairest in the land."

Like 'Mary Poppins'

The "Mary Poppins" comparison must have delighted "Enchanted" director **Kevin Lima**. When he introduced the film to us at a screening in Beverly Hills, Kevin, whose credits include "Tarzan" and "102 Dalmatians," said that he was happy to have made a mixed live action/animation film a la "Mary Poppins" which he has always admired.

As a comedy-musical, "Enchanted" is an instant Disney classic.

Aside from working with two hunky actors, Amy had to work with critters. "You'll be happy to know that you can train rats and pigeons," Amy said on this recent Sunday afternoon. "So we worked with live rats and pigeons." In that scene, Amy sings "Happy Working Song," one of the tunes that the legendary songwriting pair, **Alan Menken** and **Stephen Schwartz**, wrote for the movie. "Enchanted" marks the composers' third Disney animated feature collaboration since "Pocahontas" and "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

On working with the two tunesmiths (their separate works comprise some of the most popular music in contemporary history, e.g., "Pippin," "Godspell," "Wicked," "Beauty and the Beast," "Little Shop of Horrors"), Amy said: "I've always embraced singing as part of my whole package, but I was really nervous to sing with Alan and Stephen."

She sings the duo's "That's How You Know" in a scene that had Variety also swooning: "The production number moves through Central Park and employs dozens or more musicians, dancers and backgrounders. It's hard to think of a traditional musical number done on such a scale since the '60s, so it's a sight to behold."

Not the first

It may not have been Amy's first time to sing in the famous park. Laughing, she said, "I have a tendency to burst into song in my everyday life so I may have sung in Central Park before."

On her short stint as a waitress at Hooters, a restaurant chain known for its sexily-clad servers, Amy, whose family left the Mormon Church, said, "I bet there's more than one Mormon girl who has worked in Hooters. We're notoriously rebellious."

But not all ex-Hooters waitresses may have the same spectacular future as hers. Amy appears with **Meryl Streep** in not one but two upcoming important films: the adaptation of the acclaimed play, "Doubt," and 'Julie and Julia," where she plays a master cook wannabe to Meryl's Julia Child, the late great chef.

In "Enchanted," Amy shares the screen with **Susan Sarandon**. In a separate interview, Susan had sincere praises for Amy: "All of us had a burden to try to figure out how to be a cartoon character who becomes a real person. She nailed it. She was able to integrate with the other reality more than any of us did. She had to have the style of a cartoon and believe me, there's a reason those dresses only exist in cartoons. That wedding gown must have weighed 60 or 80 pounds. That little thing and yet she has the grace and the style."

Killer singer

Susan added, "She's a killer singer so she nailed all of that. She didn't dumb it down. She found a way to be that girl with the optimism and be realistic. In order to play somebody who's naïve, you have to be really smart. I can't imagine anybody else doing that role."

James Marsden, who makes his mark here as Prince Edward and as TV host **Corny Collins** in "Hairspray," shared his own take on sporting tights in the world's most famous intersection. "I'll never forget standing on top of a bus in the middle of Times Square, wearing tights," he said. "My wife (actress **Lisa Linde**) says that I have the perfect legs for a woman. It was a hot and humid summer day in July. The character—the classic Disney prince with a cape, sword, big chest and the big, puffy sleeves—was so much fun and extreme. You got to be big or go home. It's something you have to commit to."

PHOTO BY RUBEN V NEPALES

SUSAN Sarandon

The actor who played Scott Summers/Cyclops in the two "X-Men" movies and Richard White, Clark Kent's rival for Lois Lane, in "Superman Returns" continued, "I was standing in front of hundreds of tourists who were pointing, laughing and saying, 'That's Cyclops in tights up there... A journalist told me, 'I researched it—you were the first person on film to ever stab a bus while wearing tights in the middle of Times Square (laughter)." It was a lot of fun. Still, by the end of the filming, I wanted to take the costume and burn it."

Broadway musical

When we told James that Stephen and Alan agreed with us that he should appear in a Broadway musical, he replied, "It's nice to hear that from Stephen and Alan—that's a very nice endorsement. Doing musical theater is something I have been thinking about trying. It's something terribly exciting and terrifying at the same time. The last stage musical I did was in high school so it's a whole different world from doing a Broadway musical. Part of me wants to do a three-week run of something that nobody goes to see."

Is he returning in the next installments of "X-Men" and "Superman"? "I wish I knew," he confessed and laughed. "The actors are usually the last people to know. I get all my information by going online and reading what other people write."

But he does have definite projects coming up, just like Amy. He has finished "27 Dresses" with **Katherine Heigl** and "The Alibi."

He will shoot next "The Box" with **Cameron Diaz**. "It's one of the reasons why I have not shaven," he explained his bearded look, quite a departure from his clean cut prince in "Enchanted." "I apologize," he stated. Now that was also a departure. The cocky but amusing Prince Edward would have never apologized to commoners like us whom he matter-of-factly called in the film as "peasants."

* * *

We heard that **Gael Garcia Bernal**, the star of such acclaimed films as "Babel," "The Motorcycle Diaries," "Y tu Mama Tambien" and "Amores Perros," and **Michelle Williams** of "Brokeback Mountain" are filming a movie in Subic and Morong.

Also in the movie titled "Mammoth" are **Marife Necesito**, whose credits include **Lav Diaz's** "Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino," and **Martin de los Santos** of "Mga Mata ni Anghelita." In the first English language film of Swedish director **Lukas Moodysson**, Marife reportedly plays the nanny of Gael and Michelle's child.

Among those working in the Philippine segment of the shoot are **Oli Laperal, Jr.**, line producer; **Awel Galang**, production manager; and **Criz Soriano** and **Elmer Santos**, location managers.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

'Beowulf' hints at possible future of motion picture

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ROBERT ZEMECKIS' "BEOWULF" may not be a consistently absorbing movie, but it merits our attention because it hints at the possible future of motion pictures, which could in time be renamed "motion *capture* pictures."

That's right, "Beowulf" has been produced by means of a relatively new process, first utilized in the "The Polar Express" years ago, that digitizes actors' movements and improves the original performance by adding new elements in terms of looks and gestures, as well as creating sets seemingly out of "nothing."

Why make movies this way? Not really to speed up actors' work, but to open visual possibilities up to truly fantastic levels.

If you can digitize everything and make the technologically created images look like a heightened form of live action, just think of the awesome visual possibilities!

Zemeckis' "Beowulf" takes full advantage of this potential as it retells, in cinematic terms, the age-old tale of a monster-slayer who, instead of being hailed as a genuine hero, is cursed because he falls for the seductive charms of the lovely human form assumed by the monster's vindictive mother.

The ancient cautionary tale about heroes rendered tragically human by their grievous flaws is a great showcase for motion capture's finest moments, especially in its flying-dragon sequences, which are truly amazing and breathtaking.

The movie's new filmmaking process enables viewers to "fly" along with Beowulf as he courageously attaches himself to the fire-breathing dragon, as it streaks and swoops through the sky and countryside to crush Beowulf's kingdom.

In addition, the location and vistas digitally created for "Beowulf" are more spectacular and dramatically atmospheric than any movie set designed and constructed in the traditional way. So, the trendsetting film's visuals are truly compelling and memorable.

"Beowulf" also proudly showcases the remarkable advances made in terms of digitizing skin, hair, cloth, fur, water, fire and metal effects. The time may not be far off when we can watch a digitized feature without noticing anything even slightly awkward or visually out of sync.

On the debit side, some of the enhanced characters in the movie are made to move in too stolid or jerky a fashion, indicating that more work needs to be done in terms of motion *reality* capture.

This flaw makes it difficult for viewers to genuinely and continuously empathize with the tormented characters in "Beowulf." As a result, the film's human drama suffers, and viewers are sometimes limited to admiring the production's visual artistry and derring-do.

Can these limitations eventually be worked out? If so, there may come a time when the new digitizing process will cease to upstage actors, as should be the case in any storytelling gambit—for true empathy's sake!

New animated features

Jim Carrey and **Steve Farrell** lend their voices to a groundbreaking CGI production, "Norton Hears A Who," about an imaginative elephant who hears a cry for help coming from a tiny speck of dust floating through the air. From the makers of "Ice Age."

For its part, "Alvin and the Chipmunks" is a live action/CGI movie based on the '80s cartoon series about a music group made up of chipmunks—group leader Alvin, tall and quiet Simon and chubby, irrepressible Theodore.

Pipe organ festival

On Dec. 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10, the second Manila Cathedral-Basilica Pipe Organ festival will be held. Admission is free. The Dec. 2 mini-concert at 1:30 p.m. features four new Marian songs, followed by solemn Mass for the Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion and the soft launch of the new composition, "Misa ng Inmaculada Concepcion."

There will be mini-recitals on succeeding days, culminating in a gala concert on Dec. 10 featuring the University of the East Chorale.

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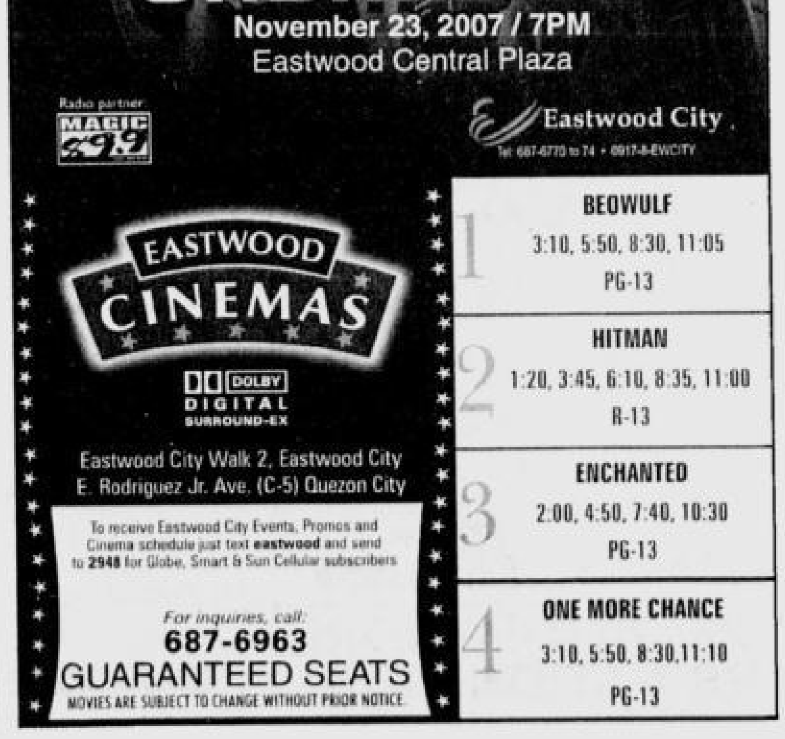

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3 ENCHANTED 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30 PG-13
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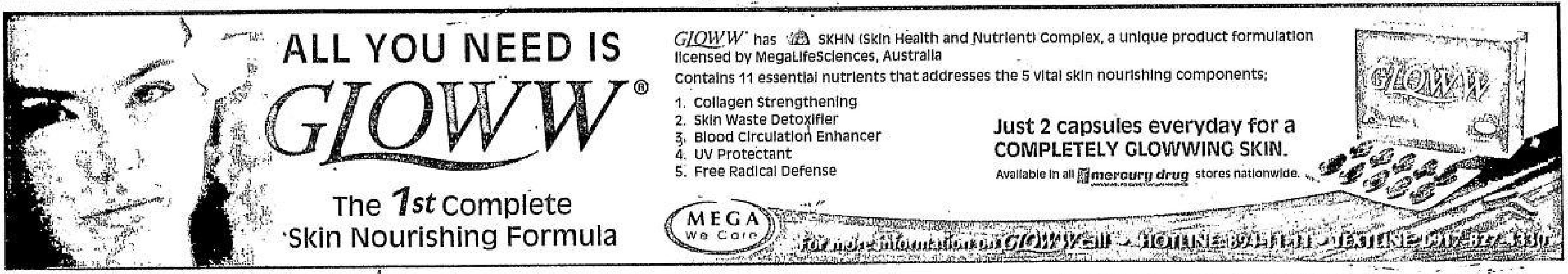

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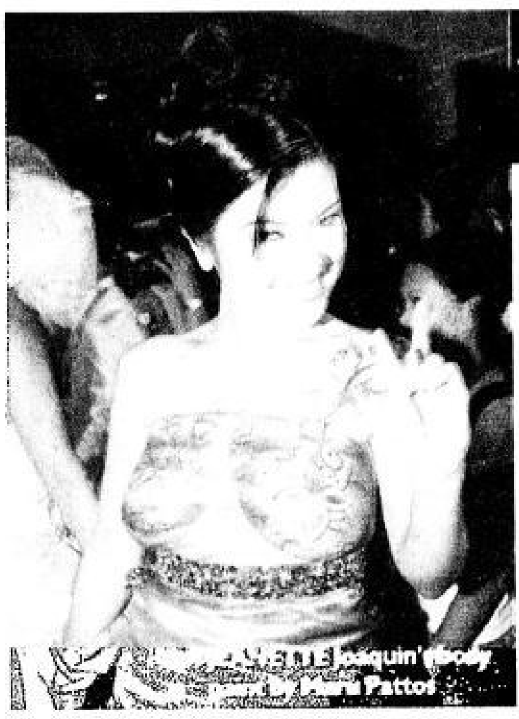
Glitter and guts

Star Awards for TV, at Ateneo's Henry Lee Irwin Theater, Nov. 18

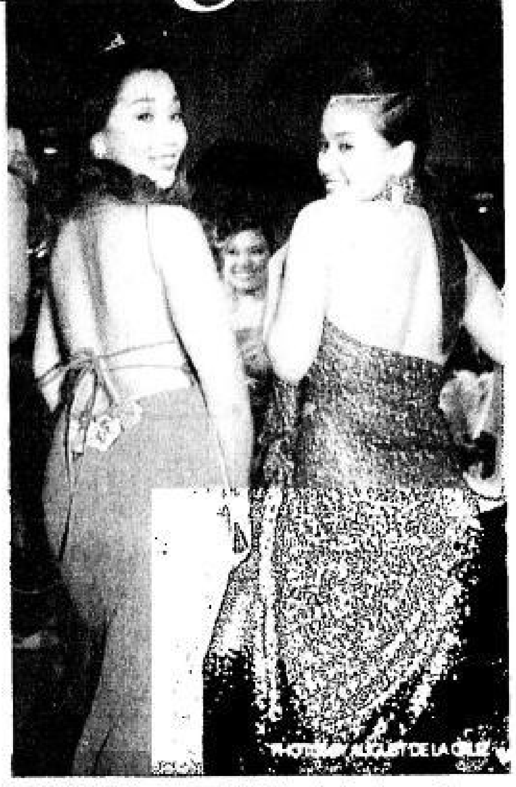


TIME WAS WHEN local awards shows were made more fun by starlets in outrageous costumes.

For the recent Star Awards for TV, held at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater in Ateneo de Manila University, Baywalk Bodies' Jeanette Joaquin decided to go beyond fun, and wore nothing more than body paint, a glitzy skirt and a mischievous grin.

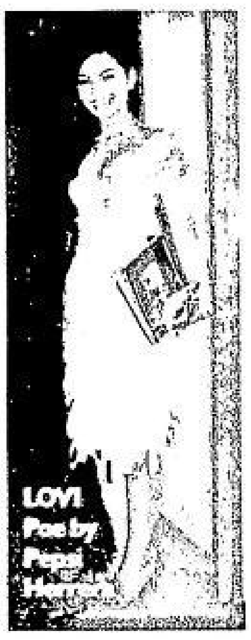
Sure got everyone's attention.

Bayani San Diego Jr.



REJOICE Rivera and Michaela Espinosa by Lloyd Arceo

RED CARPET



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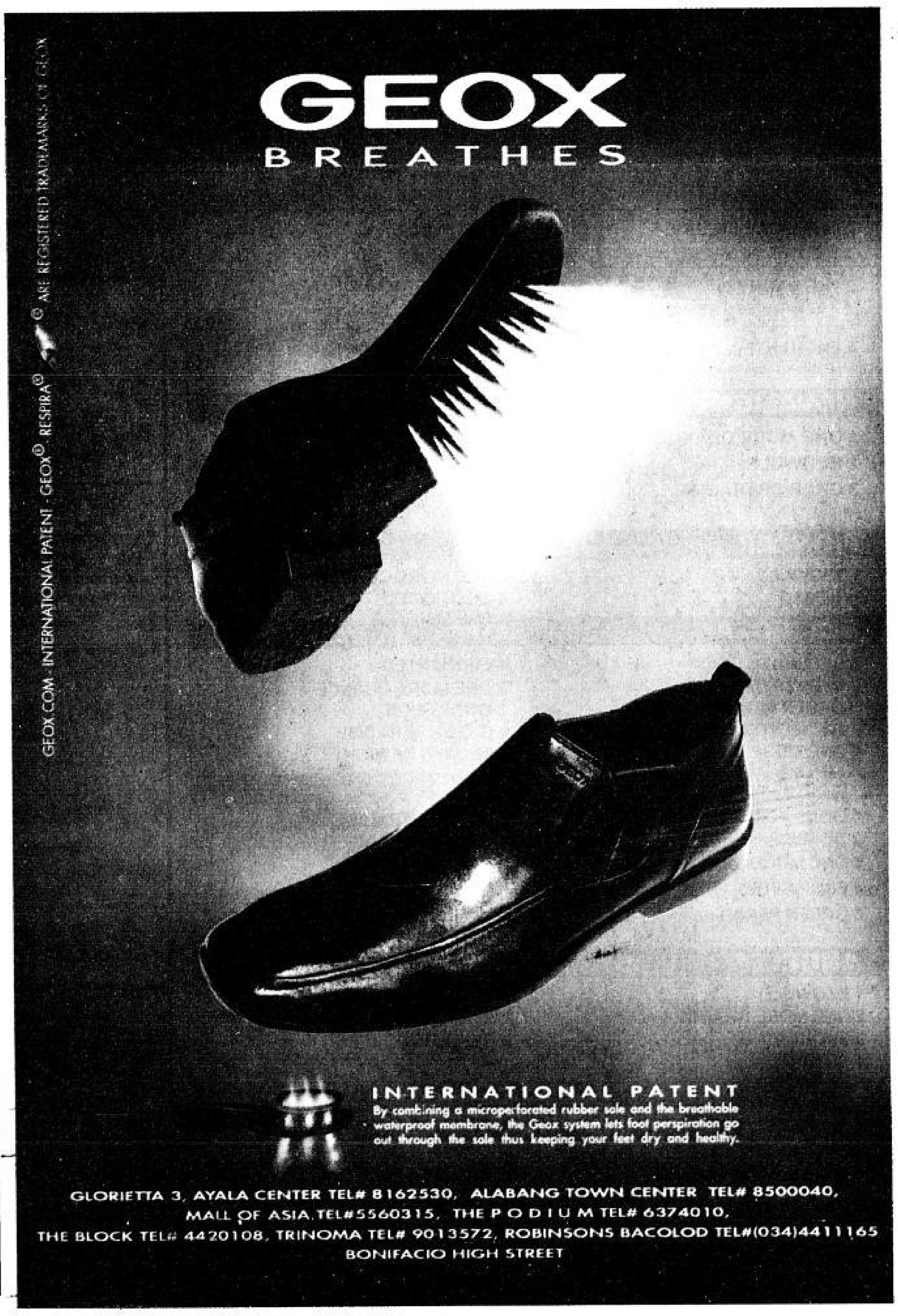

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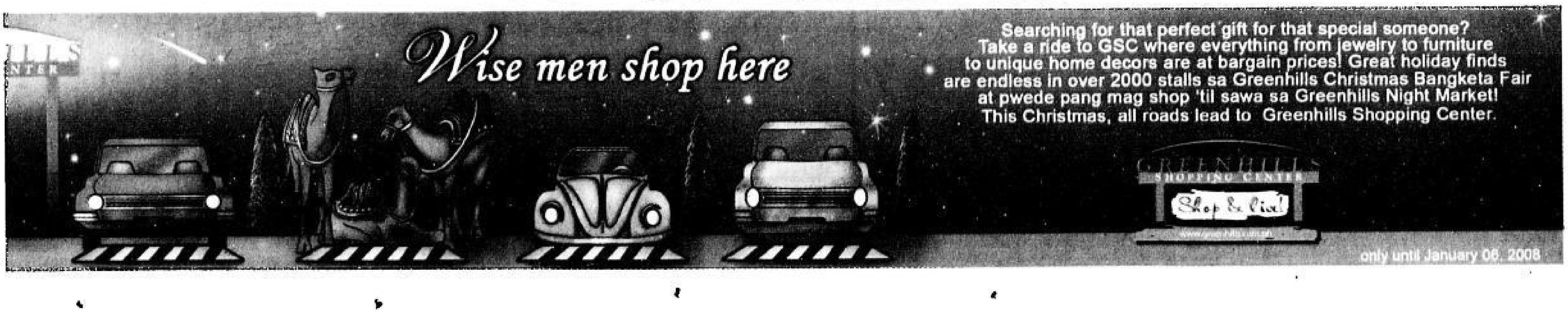

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6 BEOWULF
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 GREEN PARADISE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 THE NANNY DIARIES
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:45

9 GAME PLAN 1:00 3:10 5:20
LIONS FOR LAMBS 7:40 9:40

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5 BEOWULF
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6 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
12:35 2:55 5:15 7:35 10:00

7 BOOGEYMAN 2
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2 ONE MORE CHANCE
11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

3 THE NANNY DIARIES
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

4 ENCHANTED
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

5 GAME PLAN 12:30 2:40
LIONS FOR LAMBS 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 BEOWULF
1:05 3:35 6:20 9:00

7 HITMAN
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

8 GREEN PARADISE
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

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Ticket Price P90 / P100 936-3231 / 936-3229-30

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2 BEOWULF
3 GREEN PARADISE
4 ENCHANTED
5 HITMAN

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5 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

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2 BEOWULF
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 ENCHANTED
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2 BEOWULF
3 HITMAN
4 ENCHANTED
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 GAME PLAN

ANGELES

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1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 ENCHANTED
4 HITMAN

TARLAC

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 RENDITION

STARMILLS

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1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 GREEN PARADISE
4 GHOST SON
5 HITMAN
6 BEOWULF

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Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 indieSine: PAIN THINGS
4 BEOWULF
5 BALLS OF FURY
6 GHOST SON

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3 ATAUL FOR RENT
4 ENCHANTED
5 LUST CAUTION
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4 (DOLBY) ENCHANTED

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1 BEOWULF
2 ENCHANTED
3 HITMAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

starmall EDSA-SHAW

(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ENCHANTED
5

metropolis star cinema

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1 GREEN PARADISE
2 ENCHANTED
3 HITMAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

THEATRES

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

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Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6271

ONE MORE CHANCE
ENCHANTED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

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1 GAME PLAN
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 HITMAN
5 ENCHANTED
6 HITMAN
7 ENCHANTED
8 RESERVED
9 ONE MORE CHANCE
10 GREEN PARADISE

Blue Wave MARIKINA

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) HITMAN
2 (DOLBY) GREEN PARADISE
3 (DOLBY) ENCHANTED
4 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

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2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 BEOWULF

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong
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1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 GHOST SON
4

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ENCHANTED
3 GREEN PARADISE

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 ENCHANTED
2 HITMAN
3 (DTS EX) ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C 5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) BEOWULF
2 (DOLBY) ENCHANTED
3 (DOLBY) HITMAN
4 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE

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3 BEOWULF
4

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3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

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(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ENCHANTED
3 (DOLBY) 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

Cinema 2000 Metrotown

(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 LUST CAUTION
3 (DOLBY) 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 (DTS) BALLS OF FURY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DOLBY) ENCHANTED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 ONE MORE CHANCE

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 UNREST
2 GREEN PARADISE

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (DOLBY) UNREST
2 NAKAW NA SANDALI
3 KANGKONG
4 (DTS) GREEN PARADISE

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE
2 TUKSO
3 (DTS) ENCHANTED
4 GREEN PARADISE
5 ATAUL FOR RENT

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 ENCHANTED
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 GREEN PARADISE
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 GREEN PARADISE
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41

DOLBY DIGITAL

ONE MORE CHANCE PG13 12:10,2:40,5:10, 7:40,10:10	ENCHANTED G 12:00,2:20,4:40, 7:00,9:20	BEOWULF PG13 12:10,2:45,5:20, 7.55,10:30
HITMAN R13 1:30,3:45,6:00, 8:15,10:30	NANNY DIARIES G 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	ENCHANTED G 1:00,3:20,5:40, 8:00,10:20

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHANG CINEPLEX

① ENCHANTED MTRCB GP 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30
② BEOWULF MTRCB PG-13 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
③ HITMAN MTRCB R-13 12:20 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
④ ONE MORE CHANCE MTRCB PG-13 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE ENCHANTED (GP) 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00

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CINEMA 4 HITMAN 10:30, 12:50, 3:10 5:30, 7:50, 10:10 PG-13
CINEMA 5 ENCHANTED 11:15, 2:05, 4:50 7:35, 10:20 GP

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MUSIC MUSEUM	November 22, 2007	Body Builders	6:00 PM
	November 23 & 24, 2007	"Into the Woods" musical	8:00 PM
	December 14, 2007	Mark Herras	8:00 PM
	December 15, 2007	The Company	8:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	Nov. 21, 22, 28 & 29, 2007	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

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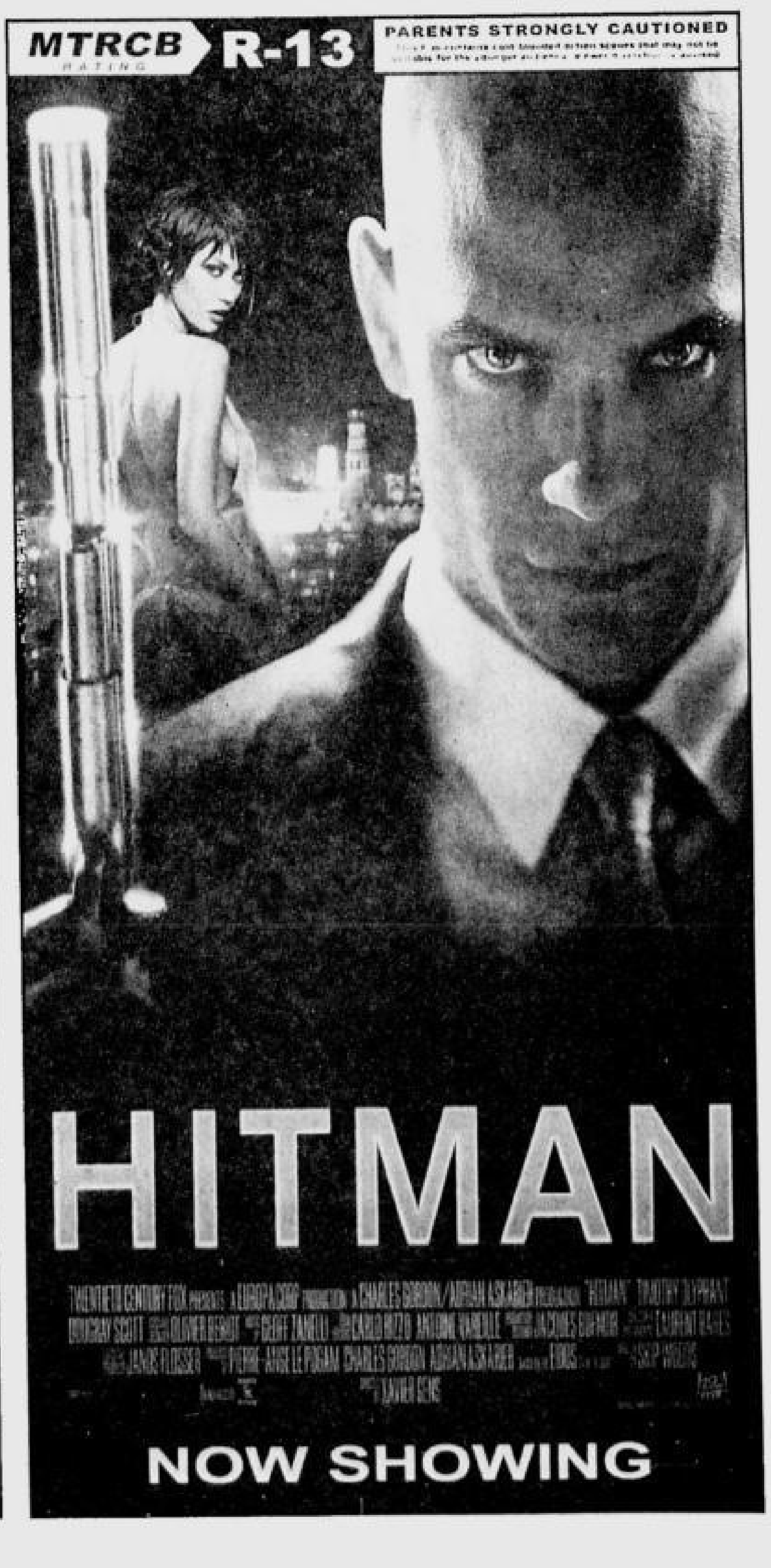


THE GIFT Divina Lee, third from left, with her son Ian Emerson, claims her Seeing Stars prize from American Eye Center's Dr. Alnette Tan and president Dr. Jack Arroyo.
RUDY ESPERAS

All 3 winners set to 'pass on' prizes

EXCEPT FOR LYN CHING, THE celebrities in our Seeing Stars contest were easily recognizable to Divina Lee, 51.

But her husband did not think Divina stood a chance, since it was nearly mid-morning when she read the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER's Oct. 26 issue. In Living Stars that day, we ran a story on local show biz celebs who've had laser eye surgery, along with nine pairs of "famous" eyes for readers to identify.

At stake were three bilateral Lasik surgery certificates worth P70,000 each from the American Eye Center.

Divina had gone ahead for the sake of her son Ian Emerson, 22, who had just graduated from UP Diliman (Business Management).

Last Tuesday, mother and son went to the AEC in Shangri-la Plaza Edsa to claim her prize.

Ian's prescription glasses are 300+ on each eye. Divina had promised him laser treatment as a graduation gift.

Divina—a "loyal INQUIRER reader"—sent (by email) the very first correct set of answers. According to the contest rules, the two other winners will be the senders (via email or SMS) of the 20th and 40th correct entries.

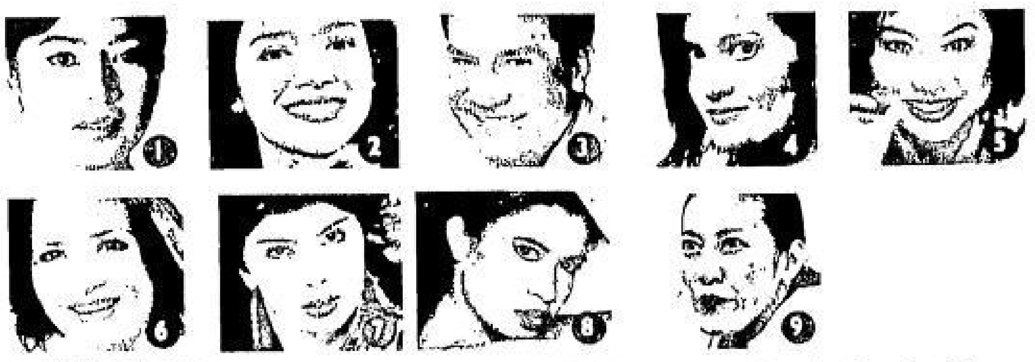
They are: 1) Joanne Maerina, 26, of AFP/EP Village in Taguig City, who sent her entry via SMS (from 0917-9712465); and 2) Vanessa Espino, 22, of Pasay City, who sent a total of 38 SMS (from 0917-4051027).

Contacted by phone, the two told similar stories. Joanne works in a call center in Makati. She said she had the hardest time identifying Sunshine Cruz. She herself didn't need Lasik treatment, she said, so she'd pass on the gift to a relative.

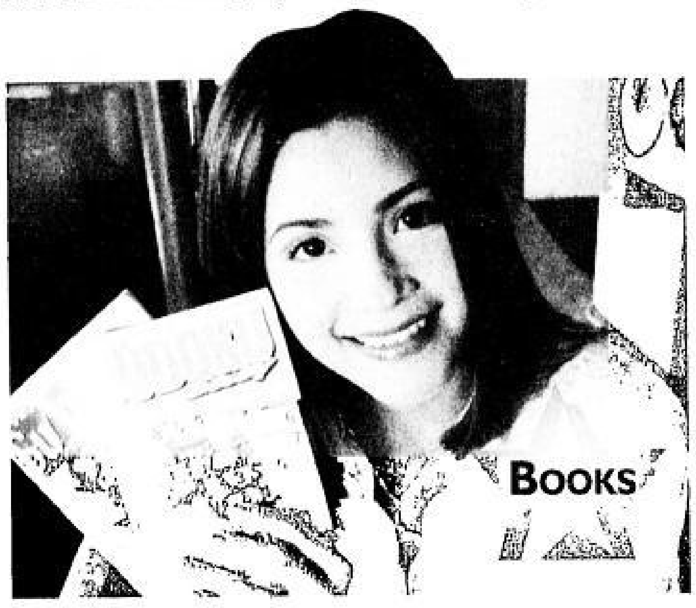
Vanessa works at the Allied Bank head office also in Makati. She hadn't counted on winning, she said, thinking it was "one of those contests that no one really wins."

She sent a single SMS entry.

Like Joanne, Vanessa has no need for the treatment just now, so a family member is bound to get it instead.



SEEING STARS Here are the answers to our Living Stars contest, launched on Oct. 26: 1) Alice Dixson, 2) Vicky Morales, 3) Edu Manzano, 4) Daphne Oseña-Paez, 5) Lyn Ching-Pascual, 6) Zsazsa Padilla, 7) Pops Fernandez, 8) Sunshine Cruz, and 9) Ai Ai delas Alas.



REGINE VELASQUEZ

I'M CURRENTLY into "Sudoku." My sister and friends say it's good for the brain. I admire the clever person who invented this game. Sometimes I can finish a puzzle quickly—the easy ones in five minutes. But I can spend two days, on and off, on the difficult ones. My sister buys the latest edition for me. It's a great way to pass the time. Between takes, or when there's a lull during rehearsals (for my latest concert "Ang Ating Musika"), I do the puzzles. Once, our flight from the Middle East was delayed for two hours. I didn't mind waiting because I was busy with "Sudoku."

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY ROGER CARPIO

FAVORITE NOOKS

ALI SOTTO

MY HUSBAND (diplomat Omar Bsaies) and I love hanging out in this pocket garden. For the longest time we were looking for a table, one that could withstand the elements. We went to antique shop Jo-Liza's and found these panels that he converted into a buffet table (at the left side). If you notice, the (center) garden set from Mexico is painted with the calla lily, a recurring motif in our home. Omar himself did the landscaping. He wanted the garden to look like a rainforest. The flowers and plants are very healthy because we use fertilizer/compost from Sandy Javier's Andok's chicken farm. We also installed a pond and waterfalls to make the place more soothing.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

LOUIE IGNACIO

I HAVE three pets: Prixy is a four-year-old French toy poodle; Kikay, a two-year-old Brison Frise; and Bunso, a one-year-old Chihuahua. I bring them everywhere I go, even to my rest house in Laguna. They sleep with me in my bed. Prixy can be overprotective and will bite anyone who comes near me while I'm asleep. They each have one *yaya*, who brush their teeth in the morning and comb their hair thrice a day. I spoil them like babies. They're one big *consuelo* after a hard day's work. I plan to match Kikay with Regine Velasquez's dog, George.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY RUDY ESPERAS

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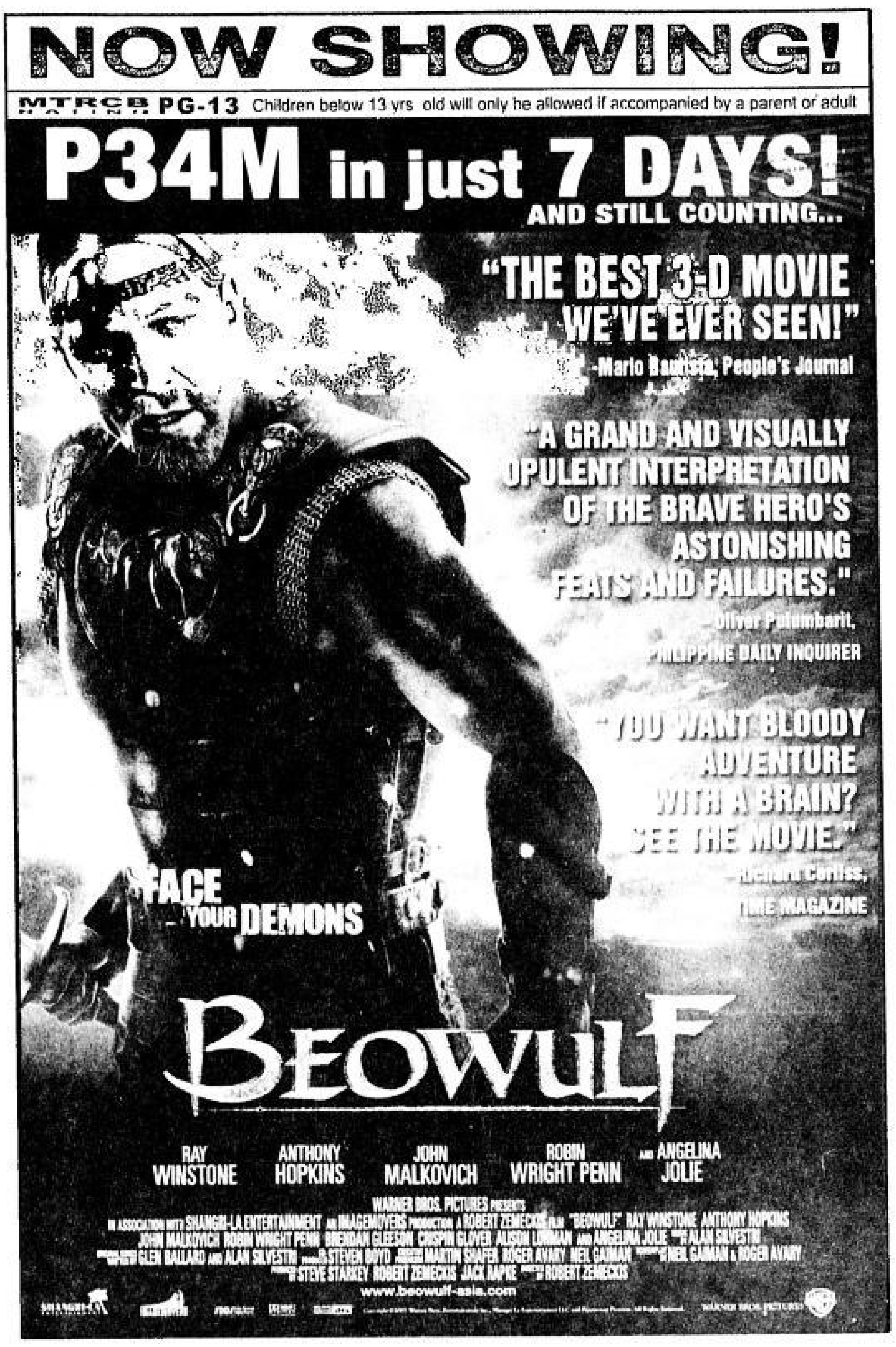
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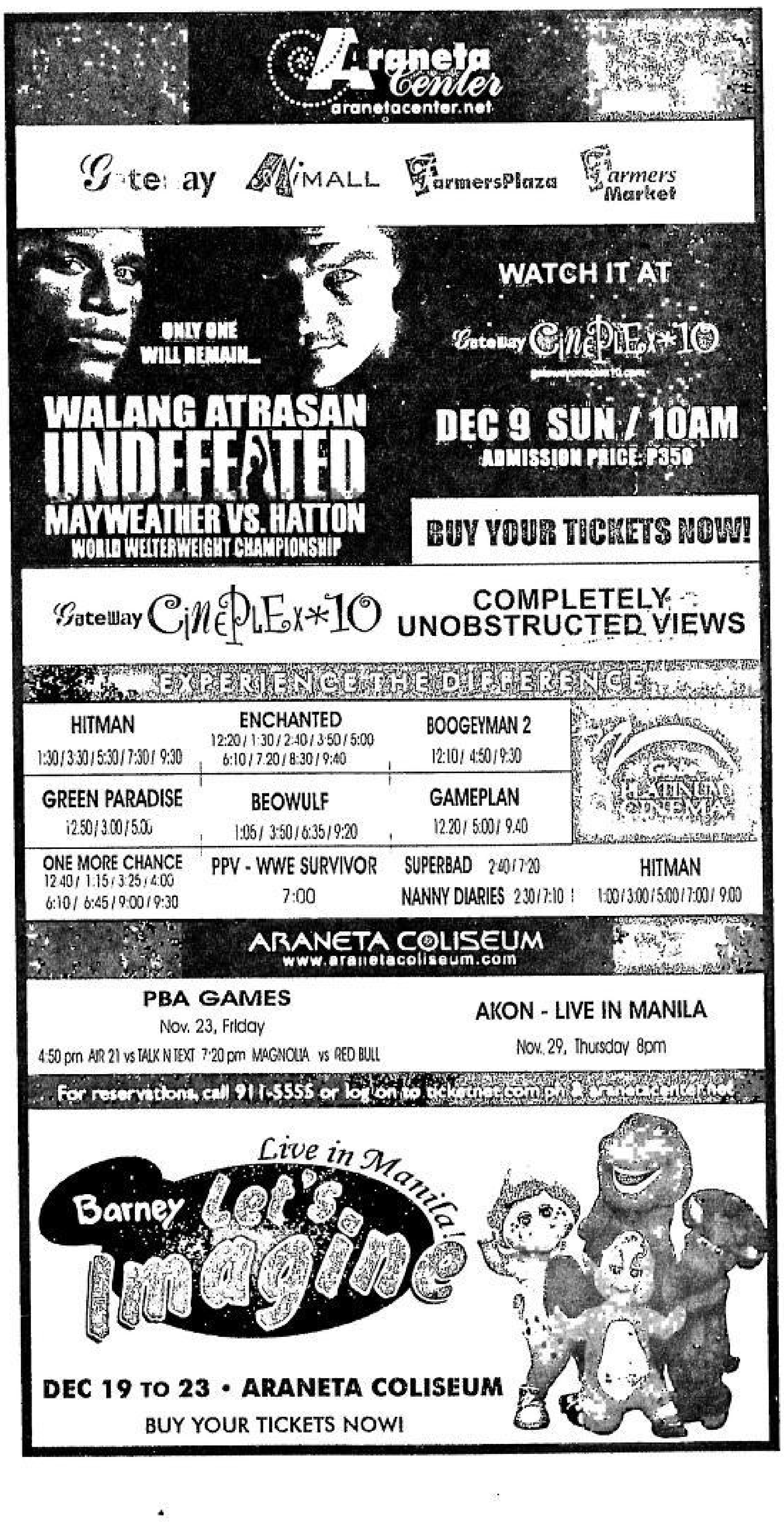
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GREEN PARADISE 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:00
BEOWULF 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20
GAMEPLAN 12:20 / 5:00 / 9:40
ONE MORE CHANCE 12:40 / 1:15 / 3:25 / 4:00 6:10 / 6:45 / 9:00 / 9:30
PPV - WWE SURVIVOR 7:00
SUPERBAD 2:40 / 7:20
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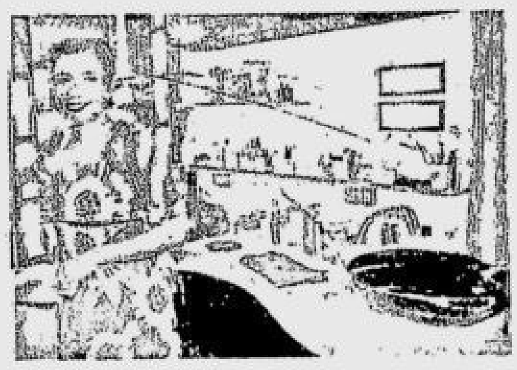
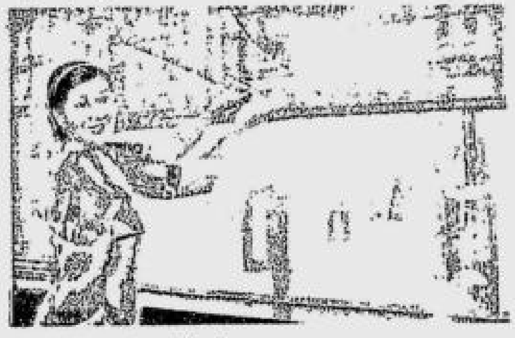


AMY'S dressing room holds trinkets that she considers too precious to throw away.



LIGHT native blinds

HUGE Japanese lanterns help achieve a "peaceful and relaxing" look.

The village standout

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by August dela Cruz

AFTER A MISCARRIAGE early this year, Amy Perez is trying to have another child. And because now she knows that pregnancy could be delicate, the TV host and radio commentator has made a few changes in her home.

She recently set up a small workstation in her bedroom and had a Wi-fi system installed in the house. Her boyfriend, radioman Carlo Castillo, bought her a new computer table.

"This was because working at the really low narra table where I used to set my laptop always strained my back. Carlo also got me a really cool model of PSP (PlayStation Portable)," Amy told Living Stars during a visit to her Pasig City townhouse. "If my doctor requires me to have bed rest, I'll be ready."

Amy hosts the radio show "About Me and You" on DZMM and the magazine show "Kabuhayang Swak na Swak" on ABS-CBN. She also writes a column for Abante.

Amy's three-story townhouse stands out in her village. "I had the original house torn down. I really wanted to maximize space and change the overall look. If you noticed, the house is V-shaped, not the typical square or rectangle."

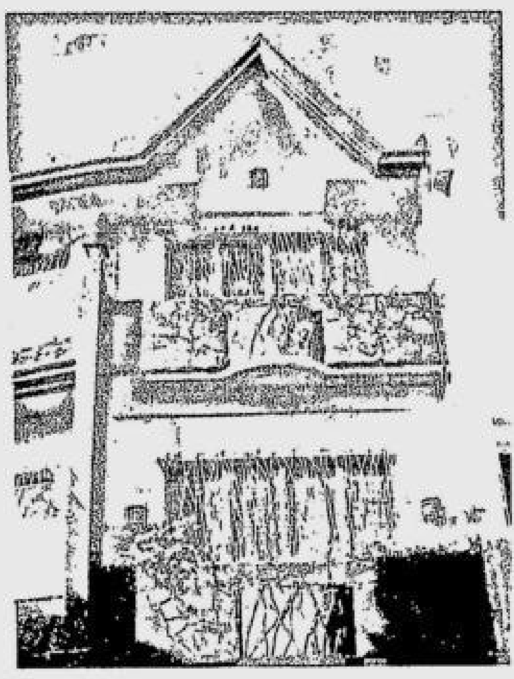
Amy hired interior designer Cynthia Garlan, who also works as set designer for ABS-CBN, to create the house's "peaceful and relaxing" look. To achieve this, a water fountain was set up in the living area and huge.Japanese lanterns were hung from the ceiling.

Amy said Cynthia also made sure that there were candles, big and small, all over the house and that the walls and pieces of furniture were mostly in shades of brown, black, red and beige.

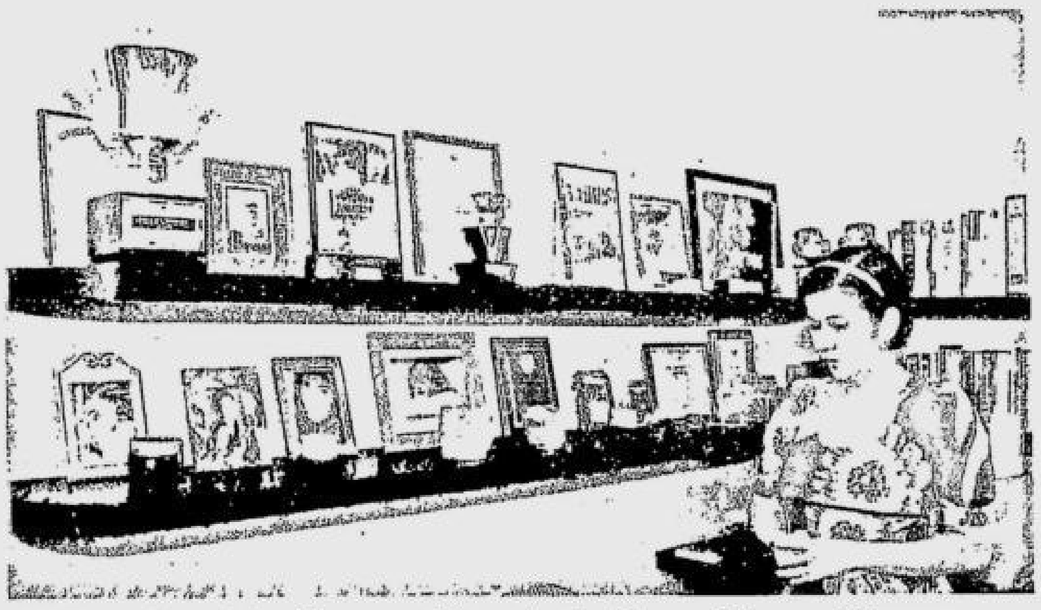
Amy is especially proud of her dining set—an eight-seater table with matching wooden benches.

"This is new," she explained. "I love cooking for my friends. Instead of going bar-hopping, we have dinner and drinks here. We could never fit around the old dining set, which could seat only six."

Amy added: "I'm very happy and content with the way the house looks right now. However, if a new baby does come, I'm going to have to make space, but willing, for a nursery."

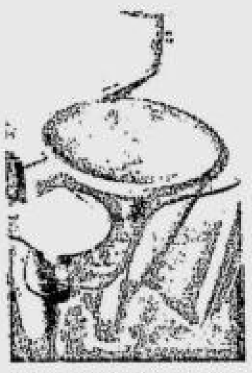


THE FACADE is unique, making it easy to pick out the actress' house.



AMY'S trophies and show biz memorabilia are kept in this second-floor receiving room.

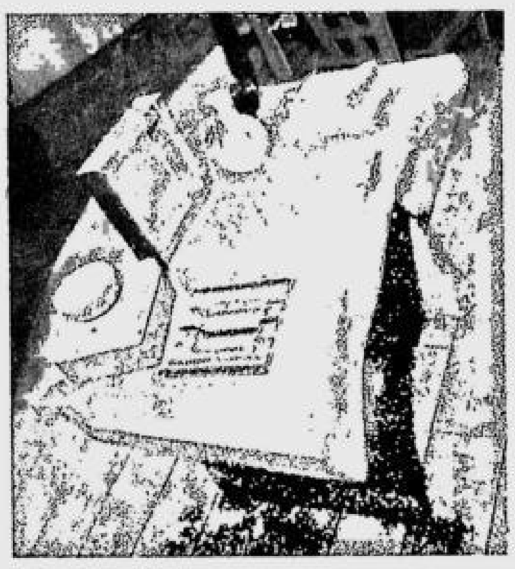
WITH 10-year-old son, Adi



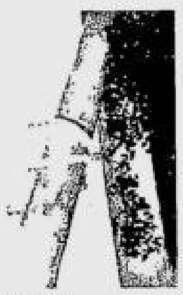
BATHROOM sink is a creation of ceramic artist Lanelle Fernando.

STRAW mat is a gift from a fan based in Japan.

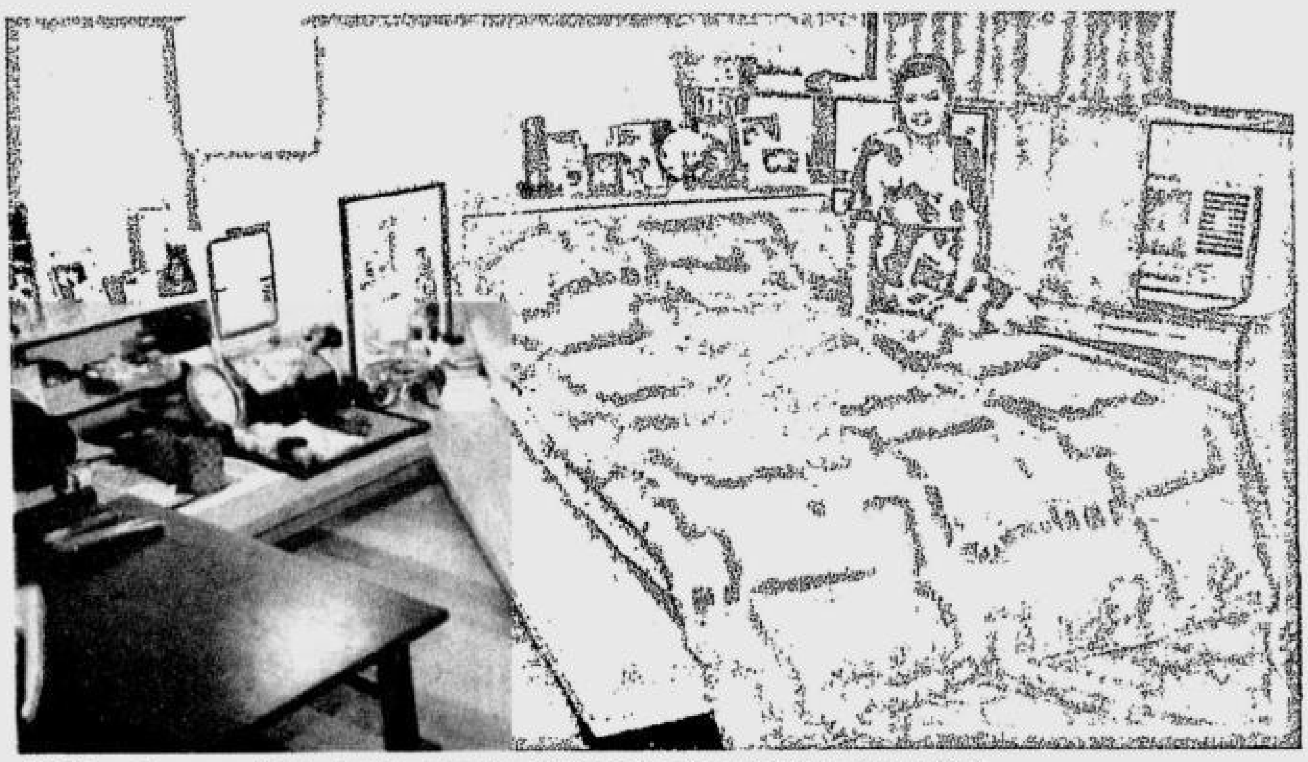
DINING set is the newest addition to the furniture.



NARRA center table is from a plant shop in Quezon City.



A PIECE of scaffolding holds bamboo rail to the wall.



AMY has a Japanese-style bed which, she says, alleviates the discomfort from her scoliosis.

SHE CAN cook for as many as 20 guests in this compact kitchen.

BizNewsAsia The largest business weekly marks 6th year with BREW Awards

The Philippines' largest weekly business and news magazine, BizNewsAsia marks its sixth anniversary tonight with a first – the BizNewsAsia Who Is Who in Real Estate (BREW) Awards to the pioneers, visionaries and major developers of the industry.

PRESIDENT Arroyo

VICE President de Castro

TONY Lopez

The trophies and the certificates will be given by no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during awards ceremonies at the Intercontinental Ballroom, at 7 p.m.

In attendance will be Vice President Noli de Castro, the country's leading tycoons, taipans, CEOs and senior officers of the major corporations, members of the cabinet, the Senate and the House, heads of major government agencies, media and advertising executives.

The BREW Awards are in recognition of the vision, innovative work, achievements and contributions of the awardees in the field of real estate and its ancillary industries. They are also an acknowledgement of the boom in real estate, now the most dynamic and robust sector of the economy.

BizNewsAsia is considered the most influential Philippine business weekly with unrivalled high-end readership of 180,000.

Since its launching in November 2001, BizNewsAsia has become the largest newsmagazine of its kind. Every issue made money, a testament to the magazine's enormous success and its unique market position, enjoying a first-mover advantage, a near-monopoly of the weekly business magazine market, and the support of the country's largest corporations either as advertisers or as media partners.

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BizNewsAsia The largest business weekly

BizNewsAsia marks 6th year with BREW Awards

The Philippines' largest weekly business and news magazine, BizNewsAsia marks its sixth anniversary tonight with a first – the BizNewsAsia Who Is Who in Real Estate (BREW) Awards to the pioneers, visionaries and major developers of the industry.

PRESIDENT Arroyo

VICE President de Castro

TONY Lopez

The trophies and the certificates will be given by no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during awards ceremonies at the Intercontinental Ballroom, at 7 p.m.

In attendance will be Vice President Noli de Castro, the country's leading tycoons, taipans, CEOs and senior officers of the major corporations, members of the cabinet, the Senate and the House, heads of major government agencies, media and advertising executives.

The BREW Awards are in recognition of the vision, innovative work, achievements and contributions of the awardees in the field of real estate and its ancillary industries. They are also an acknowledgement of the boom in real estate, now the most dynamic and robust sector of the economy.

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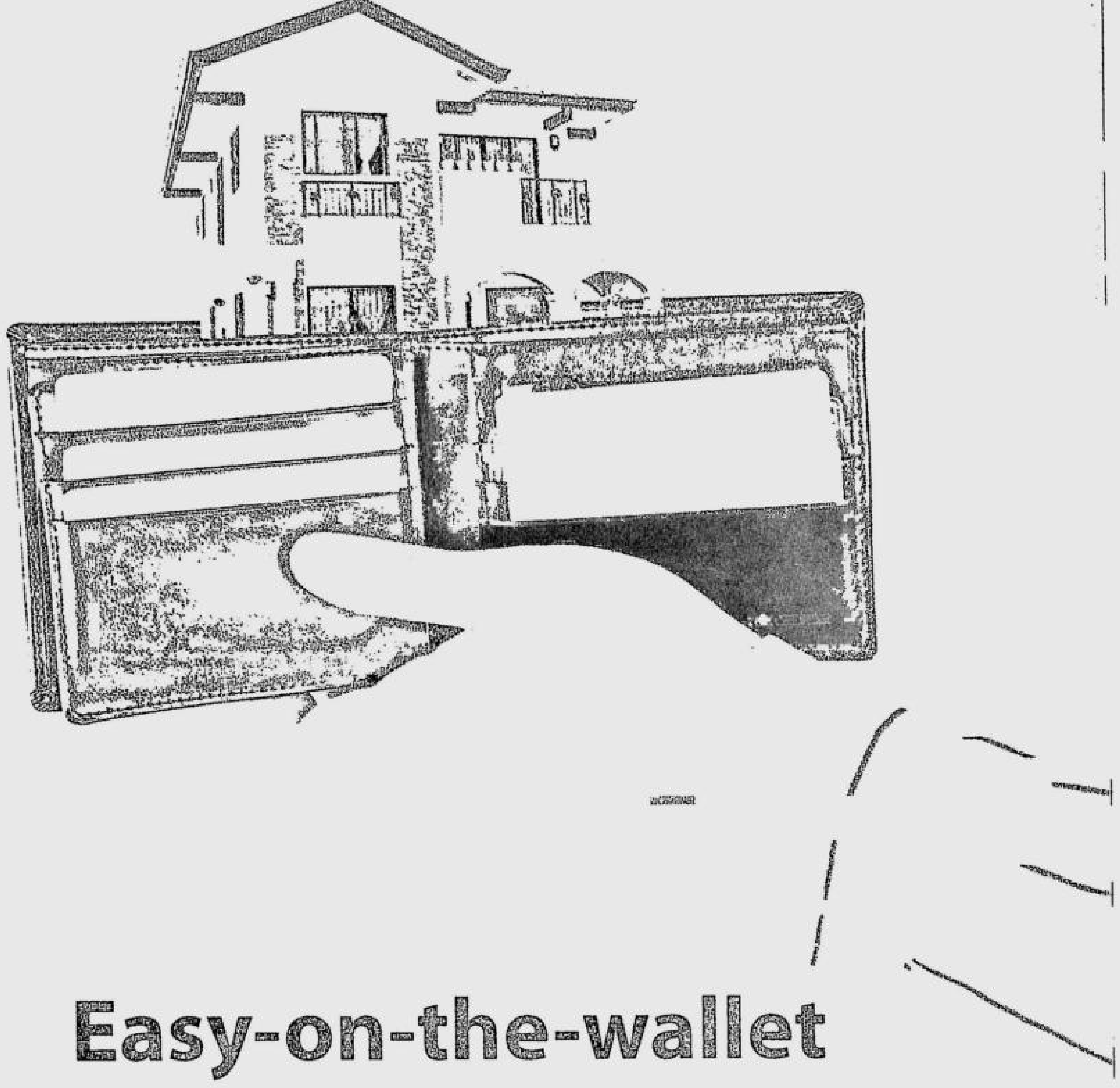

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The BREW awardees 2007

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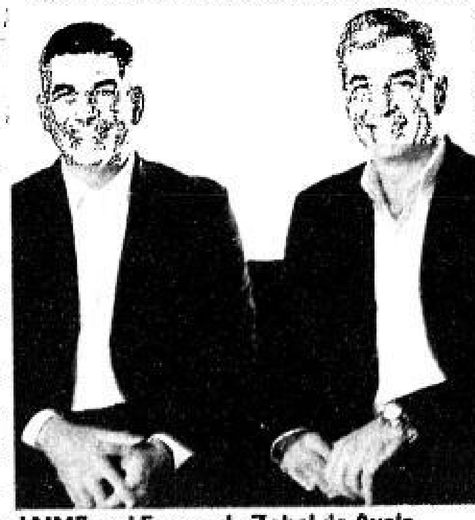

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San Miguel is power, energy, mining

Ramon Ang

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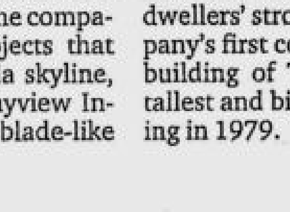

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Jacinto Tan Uy

Pipe dreams made real

JACINTO TAN UY BUILT THE largest pipe company in the Philippines for residential, commercial and industrial use. With the earnings from the pipes business, he has gone into real estate in a big way, putting up Moldex Land. He built the Philippines' tallest building, 1322 Roxas Blvd. It has 57 floors. Uy, 72, was born in Cabanatuan City, where he grew up and attended primary school, before going to Manila, where he finished high school at the University of Santo Tomas. He supported himself through college, taking on odd jobs while taking up chemical engineering at the Mapua Institute of Technology. After graduating in 1960, Uy took on what would be his last employment, as a neophyte engineer at the General Offset Press and Container Corporation of the Philippines as a neophyte engineer. In 1965, with P10,000 in savings, he joined a small aluminum die casting plant as a stockholder with the least shares. After realizing the limited potential of the aluminum business a year later, he opted to venture into what, at that time, was an emerging industry - plastics - with a few thousand pesos as working capital. Thus was born Moldex Products Inc, which brought out Uy's entrepreneurial instinct and innovativeness. He succeeded in recycling plastic waste into raw materials, drastically cutting production costs.

In late 1987, Uy ventured into horizontal real estate development, such as residential subdivisions. He formed Moldex Realty Inc, which quickly established itself as a profitable enterprise.

In addition to Moldex Products and Moldex Realty, Jacinto also owns four other companies: has six companies: Moldex Land Inc, Moldex Realty Marketing Inc, Moldex Construction Inc, and Moldex Insurance Agency Inc.

Reghis Romero:

Miracle builder

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He completed the 28 four-storey buildings in Fort Bonifacio that make up the Philippine Army Officers' Quarters in a record time of six months. He finished in 90 days the Angeles Resettlement Project, which involved the site development and construction of housing units for victims of the Mount Pinatubo eruption in Pampanga.

His accomplishments earned Romero numerous awards and citations, including the following: Most Outstanding Entrepreneur of the Philippines (Quezon City) given by the Quezon City Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Most Outstanding Employer of the Year Award given by the Rotary Club.

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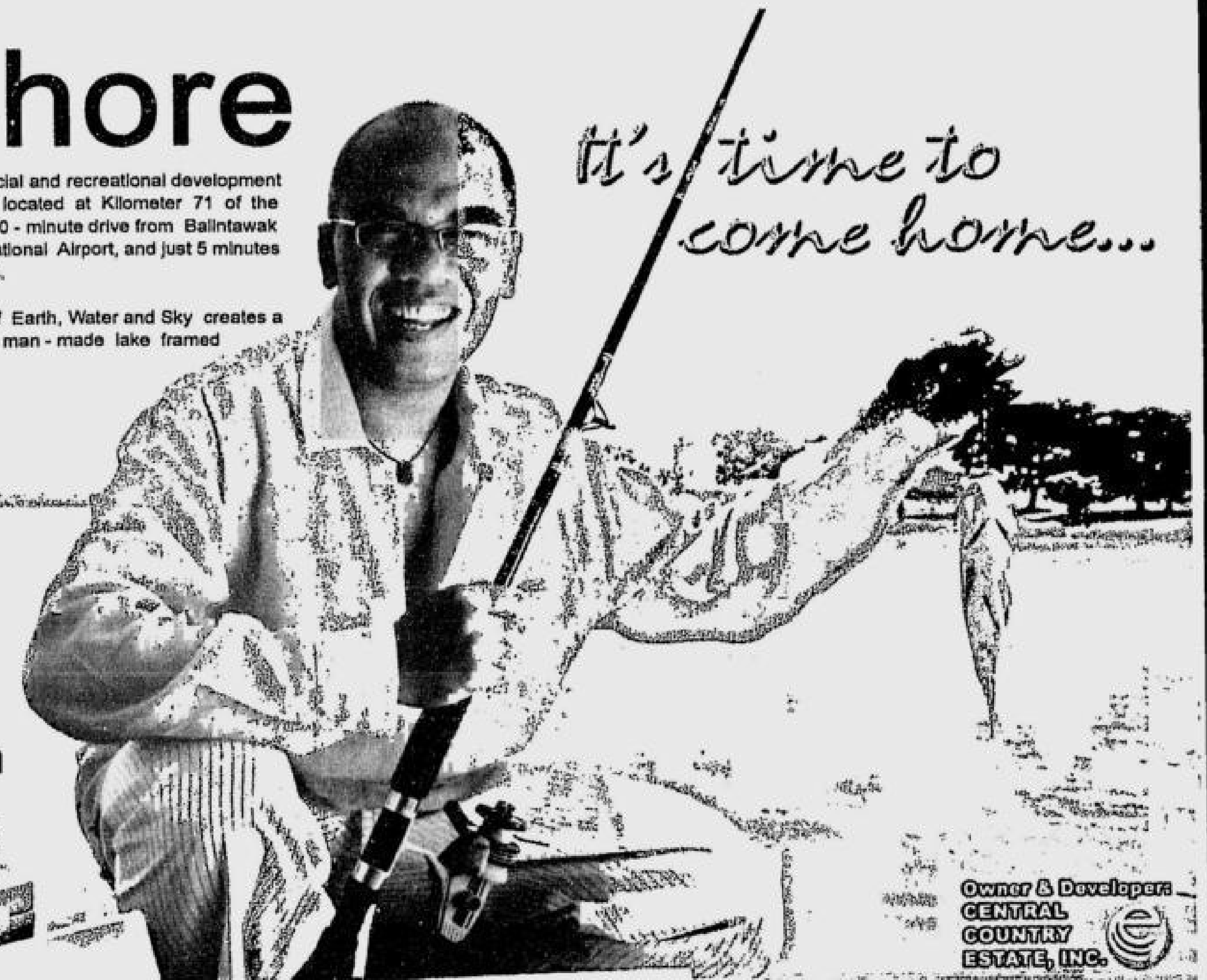
The Timeless elegance of classic Mediterranean architecture combined with the grandest elements of Earth, Water and Sky creates a lifestyle that soars above and beyond the ordinary. This self - contained community boasts of its 12 - hectare man - made lake framed by the majestic panorama of Mount Arayat. At the Lakeshore, everyday is a vacation.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www.lakeshore.com.ph
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The BREW awardees

Jacinto Tan Uy

Pipe dreams made real

JACINTO TAN UY BUILT THE largest pipe company in the Philippines for residential, commercial and industrial use. With the earnings from the pipes business, he has gone into real estate in a big way, putting up Moldex Land. He built the Philippines' tallest building, 1322 Roxas Blvd. It has 57 floors. Uy, 72, was born in Cabanatuan City, where he grew up and attended primary school, before going to Manila, where he finished high school at the University of Santo Tomas. He supported himself through college, taking on odd jobs while taking up chemical engineering at the Mapua Institute of Technology. After graduating in 1960, Uy took on what would be his last employment, as a neophyte engineer at the General Offset Press and Container Corporation of the Philippines as a neophyte engineer. In 1965, with P10,000 in savings, he joined a small aluminum die casting plant as a stockholder with the least shares. After realizing the limited potential of the aluminum business a year later, he opted to venture into what, at that time, was an emerging industry - plastics - with a few thousand pesos as working capital. Thus was born Moldex Products Inc, which brought out Uy's entrepreneurial instinct and innovativeness. He succeeded in recycling plastic waste into raw materials, drastically cutting production costs.

In late 1987, Uy ventured into horizontal real estate development, such as residential subdivisions. He formed Moldex Realty Inc, which quickly established itself as a profitable enterprise.

In addition to Moldex Products and Moldex Realty, Jacinto also owns four other companies: has six companies: Moldex Land Inc, Moldex Realty Marketing Inc, Moldex Construction Inc, and Moldex Insurance Agency Inc.

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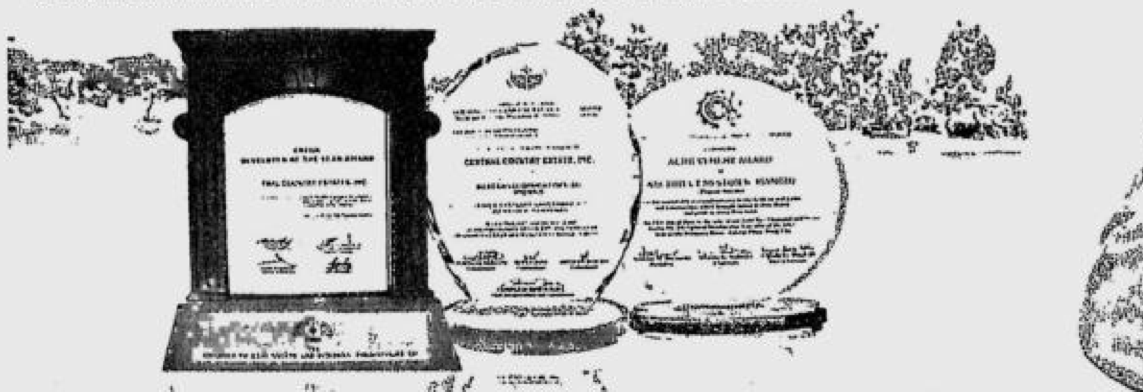

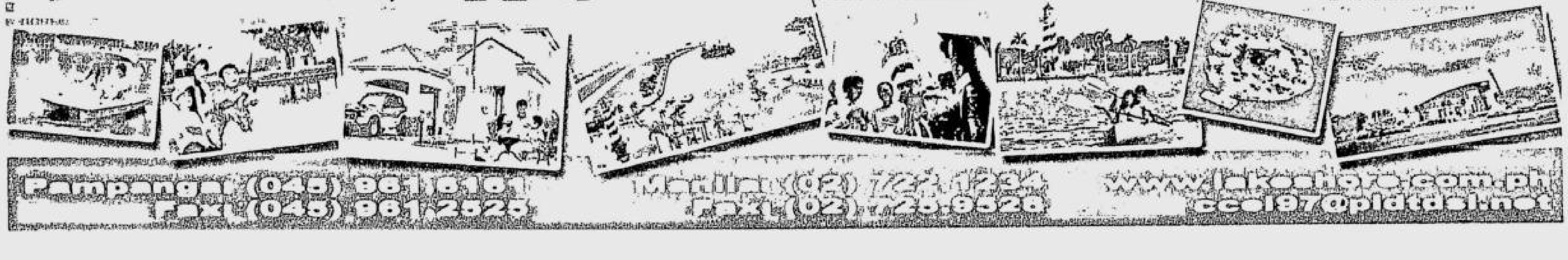

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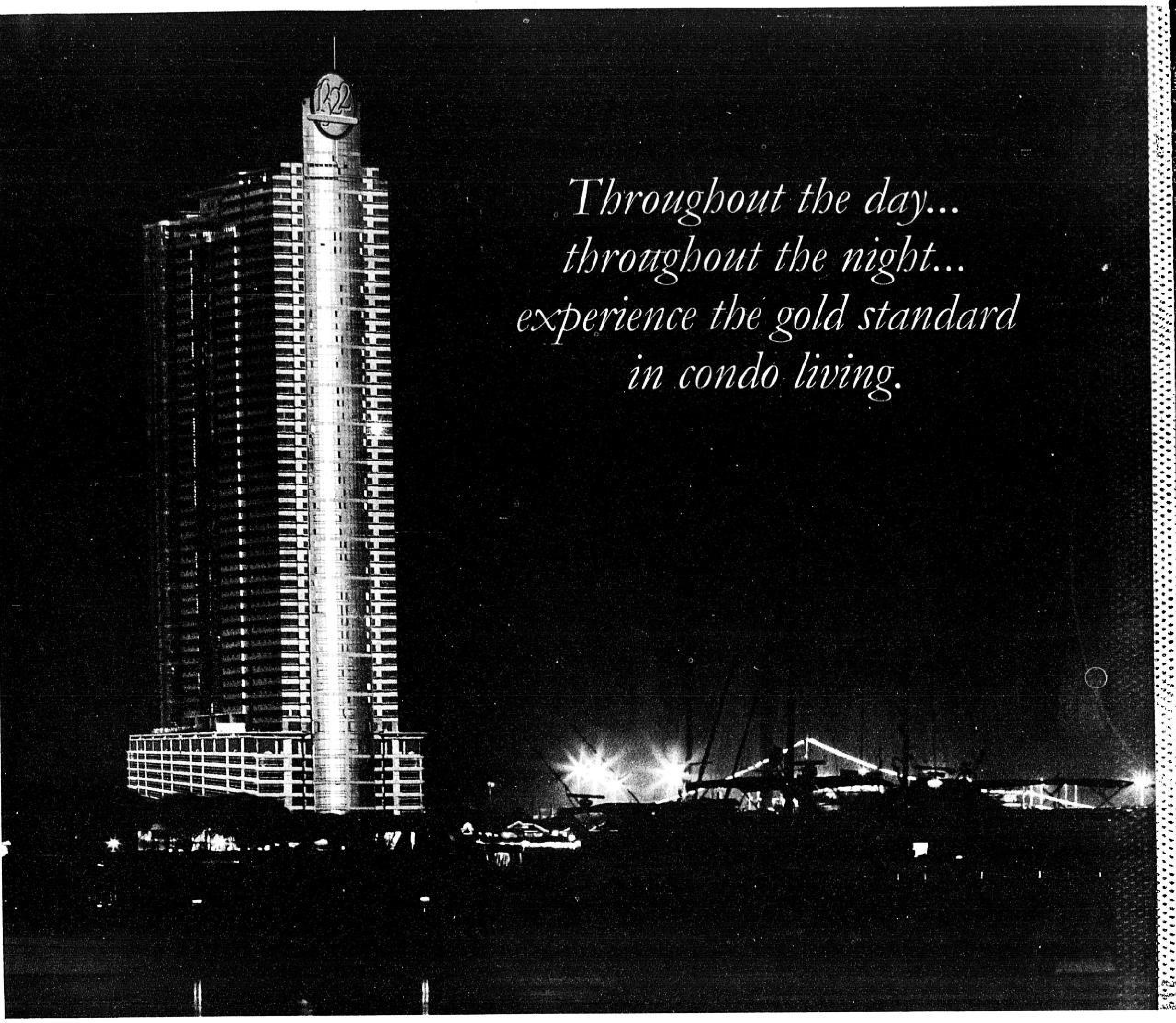

Bayani F. Fernando

Rebuilding Metro Manila

BAYANI F. FERNANDO IS REBUILDING THE landscape and skyline of Metro Manila in a manner and passion no one before him has done.He calls his program "Metro Gwapo" - beautiful metropolis.

Simply stated, "Metro Gwapo" means six things - no obstructions, no litter, no decay, no diseases, no stink, no discourtesy. "Metro Gwapo," BF elucidates, is the blueprint for the physical transformation of Metro Manila, by cleaning it literally, and ridding it of squatters, sidewalk vendors, grime and crime, paying particular attention to the city's rivers and riverbanks. Major infrastructure has to be rebuilt or built. To improve traffic flow, BF removed intersections and imposed U-turns. To clean the city, he improved garbage collection. Residents caught dumping garbage into the metropolis' waterways are fined, if not arrested.

To clear the waterways, he removed the squatters. To widen roads, he removed obstructions, even if they are multi-storey buildings that are literally cut in half in many places. Sidewalk vendors are also driven away, their wares thrown into the garbage dump.

People drinking on sidewalks and without shirts are arrested. Today, Commonwealth Avenue is a showcase of what a modern highway should be. Motorists have a clear, unobstructed view hundreds of meters away and can actually drive as fast as 100 kph.

Before BF, the avenue was a picture of bedlam. With Metro Gwapo, the capital becomes a better place to live in and-for doing business. Most importantly for Bayani is the social transformation to urbanity.

Felino 'Jun' Palafox

No.1 architect and urban planner

PALAFOX Associates is the Philippines' leading architectural firm and the No. 1 in Southeast Asia. It has been involved in the planning of more than 10 billion square meters of land area and the design and architecture of more than seven million square meters of building floor area and in undertaking high-profile large-scale projects in 27 countries.

Felino "Jun" Palafox is its founder and moving spirit. Palafox's projects include the Rockwell Center, seven SM malls, five Robinsons malls, Sta. Elena, Manila Southwoods, Bam Public Schools, The Country Club, the NAIA Master Development Plan, and the Makati Urban Design. In the last eight years (1999-2007), Palafox has been the only architectural firm in the Philippines to make it to the rankings of the Top 500 Architectural Firms of the London-based World Architecture Magazine.

BCI Asia, China and Southeast Asia's leading construction information provider has named Palafox Associates the Market Leader in Architecture in the Philippines and one of the Top 10 Architects of the Philippines in 2005, 2006, and 2007. Perhaps, Jun Palafox's major contribution to the development of the real estate industry is his passion and advocacy to make communities better planned, greener, and more humane.

Francisco 'Bobby' Mañosa

The Filipino architect

NO ARCHIRECT CAPTURES THE FILIPINO soul with more accuracy, brilliance and grace than Francisco "Bobby" Mañosa.

His work is a testament to that genius- the Tahanang Pilipino or Coconut Palace (arguably, the best Filipino house ever built), the Amanpulo (the world's best resort), the San Miguel Corp headquarters, the Pearl Farm in Davao, no less than five papal thrones made of native materials (two of the seats are at the Vatican Museum), the Edsa Shrine, the Mactan Shangri-La, and the Nielson Tower Club.

In 40 years of pratice, Mañosa's projects represent architecture that mirrors Filipino values, climate and materiality, the three factors that, for Mañosa, constitute Philippine architecture. Filipino value system, according to Mañosa, puts emphasis on the extended family and the social network.

"As intensely social beings, Filipinos exult in the company of others, and this trait is reflected in the prominence of shared space: balconies, verandas and plazas," he says.

He says the bahay kubo represents the built manifestation of the Filipino aesthetic that hews to sociability, openness and functionality. "You are barely out of Manila and the bahay kubo or its variant."

Moreover, Mañosa insists that Philippine architecture is tropical architecture, and so must accommodate itself to the two seasons, wet and dry, by adopting the features of the kubo-high ceilings, large windows, low eaves and overhangs. He explains that Filipino architecture has always been "sustainable" and "environment-friendly."

Finally, Filipino architecture is "materialist," that is, it uses and builds on indigenous materials. He explains that the use of local materials is not to provide a local or rustic flavor to buildings; they are utilized because in many cases, "they are the most appropriate."

Mañosa particularly endorses the use of bamboo and scoffs at those who consider it as poor man's wood.

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Vice President N

The Veep sees a

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI "BOY" DE Castro finished banking but ended up being a famous broadcaster and one of the most trusted media men of his time. He parlayed that popularity to become No. 1 senator in 2001 and vice president in 2004.

As member of President Arroyo's Cabinet, he presides over one of the most dynamic sectors of the economy - housing, being the chair of Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

As the housing czar, he has done something next to impossible-remove thousands of squatters along Metro Manila's railways to make way for high-speed (by Manila standards, anyway) commuter trains.

As chair of Pag-IBIG, the government housing financing arm, he has lowered interest rates to borrowers to record lows. You can now own a house and lot and pay only P1,000 amortization per month.

OFWs and housing - a public official cannot find a greater constituency that these two. They are crucial to boost one's presidential ambitions. And Noli is only a heartbeat away from the presidency.

De Castro sees an ongoing boom in housing, which registered 17.1 percent growth in 2006, an all-time high.

He also cites the positive trend in housing as proven by the increase in the sale of residential subdivisions and condominium projects, which are in high demand among the overseas Filipino workers. He has challenged local governments, civil societies and the business sector to deliver their commitment with the creating liveable citie and address the adver urban growth on peop

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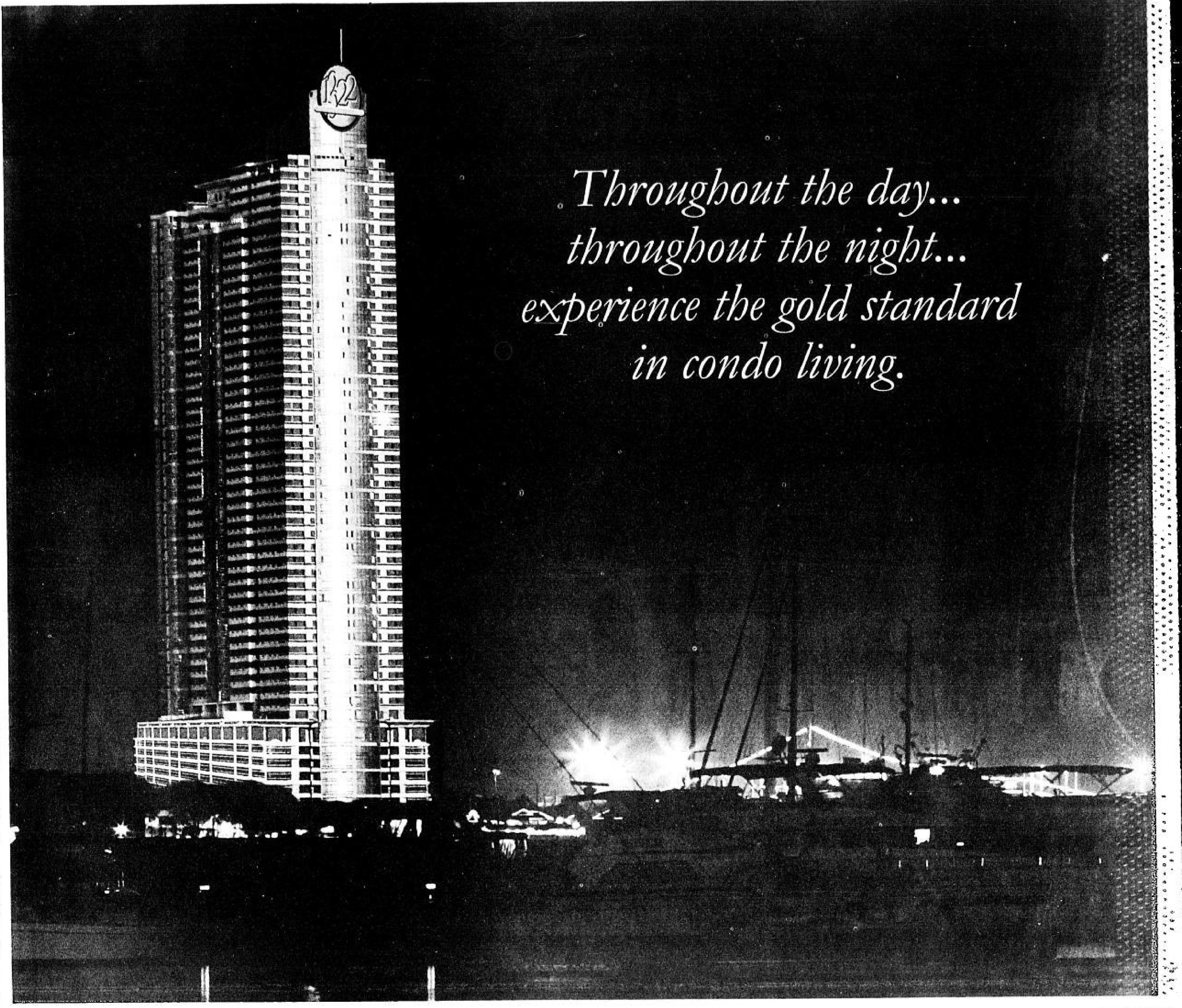

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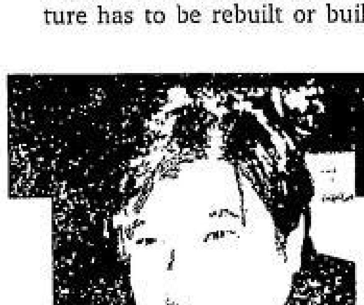

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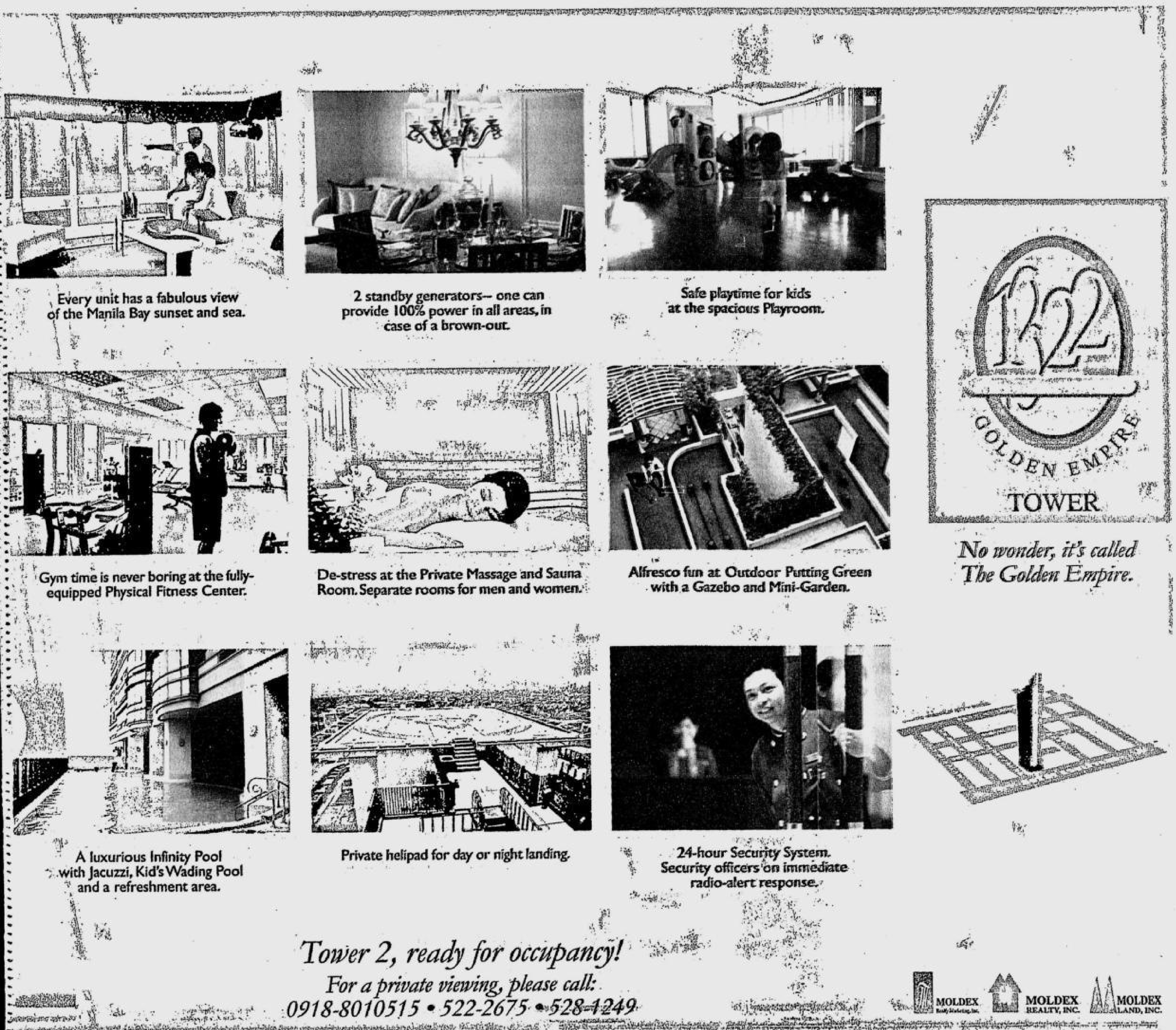
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Manuel M. Serrano

Voice of builders, homeowners

BEING A lawyer and a businessman at the same time makes Manuel M. Serrano a valuable leader for the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) Inc and the Subdivision Owners Association of the Philippines-now known as the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA)-both of which he founded. As chair of the Creba board of directors, he has been the chamber's principal formulator of policy and legislative recommendations, many of which have been adopted by the government. His latest efforts, aimed at strengthening the shelter finance, are:

1. OFW Investment Fund - Creba submitted this proposal to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to help raise long-term funds for housing and infrastructure. The proposal calls for the sale of 10-year retail bonds to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in the Philippines so there will be no need to contend with cross-border regulatory problems and foreign financial advisors and underwriters. BSP has adopted the proposal and is now preparing for its implementation.

2. Contract To Sell - The sub-prime mortgage fiasco in the United States will never happen in the Philippines, thanks to Creba's advocacy to use Contract To Sell

(CTS) instead of mortgage origination in documenting installment sales of house-and-lot packages. The current practice allows the transfer of title to the property only upon full payment of the sale price. Under the old practice, the deed of sale with mortgage (similar to the practice in the US), title is transferred upon payment of the down payment, with the balance still to be paid in as long as 20 years. Now that financial institutions, as well as developers, use CTS, delinquencies are effectively addressed by simply canceling the CTS.

3. Crebaland Services and Title Warranty Corp - As a title verification service, Crebaland Services and Title Warranty Corp will prevent incursions by fake title syndicates of unwary victims, cleanse the government's land records of fake titles and thus restore faith in the country's Torrens System

4. Integrated Syndicated Area Development (Isad) program - CREBA conceptualized and packaged this program to help alleviate poverty in the countryside by encouraging private sector investments.

Serrano was recently appointed by House Speaker Jose de Venecia as special adviser to the Committee on Housing and Urban Development.

Romero Federico S. Quimbo

He makes homes affordable

LAWYER ROMERO FEDERICO S. QUIMBO made Pag-IBIG, the government housing bank, big and strong, and more relevant to workers in meeting their housing needs.

He is president and CEO of Pag-IBIG, which now has 6.86 million members. Since 2001, Quimbo has steered the institution into being the key factor in the housing sector's unprecedented level of accomplishments, firmly establishing its role as the main financier of the national shelter program and the single biggest provider of housing finance in the entire country. By 2005, Pag-IBIG had total assets of P178.3 billion, net income of P7.38 billion, housing loans of P14.4 billion, dividends to members of P5.54 billion and Triple A credit rating-the highest among government agencies. Under his watch, the fund was granted the UN Habitat scroll of honor in 2006, the most prestigious international award for exceptional accomplishments in human settlements. Pag-IBIG has become a catalyst in the housing industry.

Quimbo convinced the private sector that housing, including low-cost housing, can be a profitable business. His initiatives could be considered revolutionary, particularly the lowering of interest rates on housing loans. At a time when banks were charging double-digit rates on housing loans, Pag-IBIG gradually lowered its rates up to the current 6 percent per year. The Fund also institutionalized long maturities for housing loans -up to 30 years.

Quimbo streamlined the Fund's operations, including collection of loan amortizations.

Today, there is stiff competition among banks for housing loans, which are now offered at low interest rates and with long repayment periods. In 2006, Quimbo was named one of The Outstanding Young Men by the Philippine Jaycees and the TOYM Fundation for his excellent work in government service.

Rosemarie Custodio Basa

A leader in real estate advocacy

LEADERSHIP IS A QUALITY ONE CAN demonstrate even if one does not own a huge property or inherited great wealth.

One such person is Visayan lass Rosemarie Custodio Basa, an English major and personnel management expert who is making her mark in the real estate business.

She is chair, president and organizer of the Philippine Real Estate Festival, a director of the Chamber of Real Estate Builders Association (Creba), director and vice president for the Middle East of the Creba International Foundation, board chair of the Creba Social Housing Foundation, and author of the innovative concept, "Isang Daang Bahay Bawat Bayan" - 100 houses for every town. Basa has just mounted the First Philippine Real Estate Festival, which was conceived last July 2007 at the World Trade Center. The exhibit, aimed at overseas Filipinos, showcased the vibrancy of the real estate sector and brought together the industry's major players under the theme "Our World Under One Roof".

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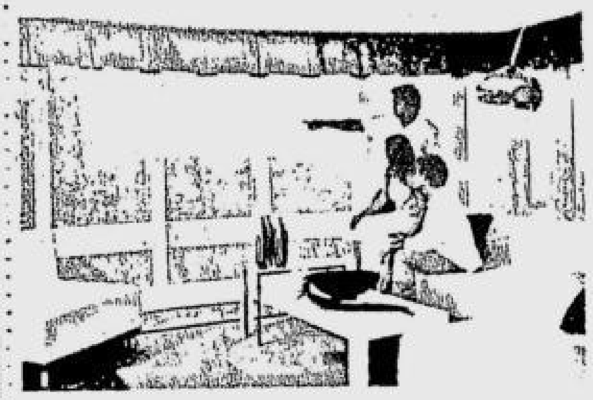
Every unit has a fabulous view
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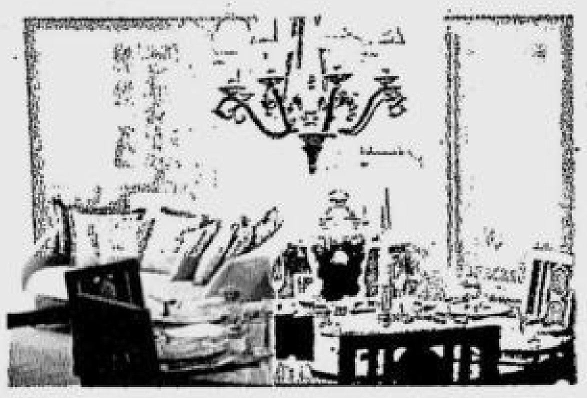
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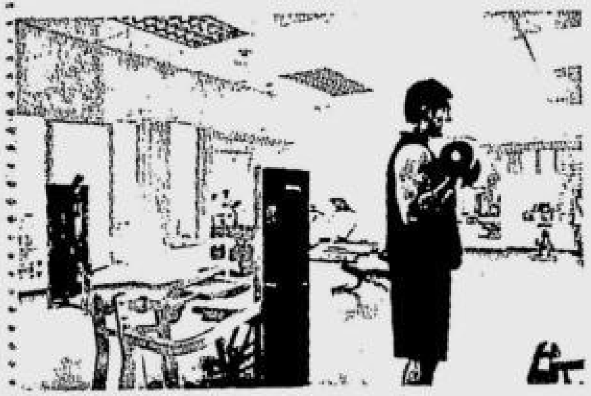
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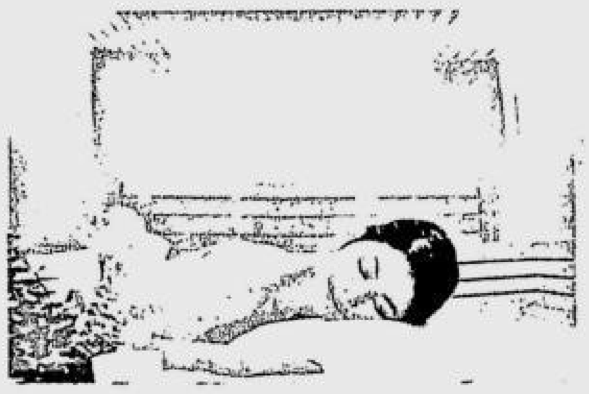
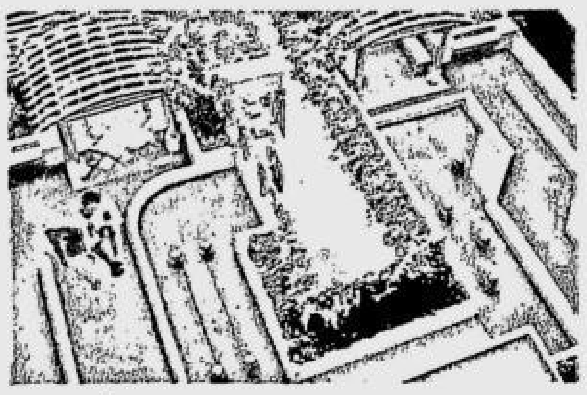
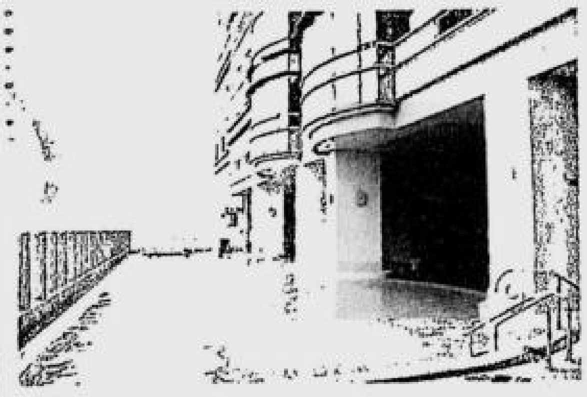
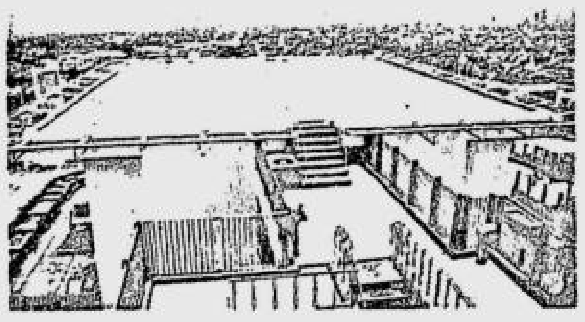
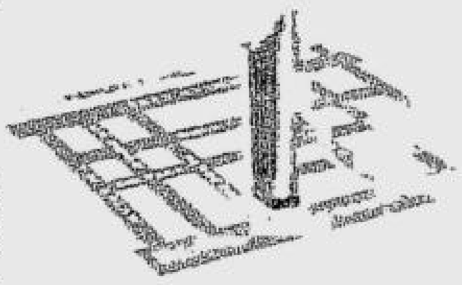

De-stress at the Private Massage and Sauna
Room. Separate rooms for men and women.


Alfresco fun at Outdoor Putting Green
with a Gazebo and Mini-Garden.


A luxurious Infinity Pool
with Jacuzzi, Kid's Wading Pool
and a refreshment area.


Private helipad for day or night landing.

24-hour Security System.
Security officers on immediate
radio-alert response.



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government is

willing to sustain the needed policy environment and systems of incentives that fuel the collaboration and meaningful engagement of concerned sectors in the overall poverty reduction effort.

Manuel M. Serrano

Voice of builders, homeowners

BEING A lawyer and a businessman at the same time makes Manuel M. Serrano a valuable leader for the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) Inc and the Subdivision Owners Association of the Philippines-now known as the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA)-both of which he founded. As chair of the Creba board of directors, he has been the chamber's principal formulator of policy and legislative recommendations, many of which have been adopted by the government. His latest efforts, aimed at strengthening the shelter finance, are:

1. OFW Investment Fund - Creba submitted this proposal to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to help raise long-term funds for housing and infrastructure. The proposal calls for the sale of 10-year retail bonds to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in the Philippines so there will be no need to contend with cross-border regulatory problems and foreign financial advisors and underwriters. BSP has adopted the proposal and is now preparing for its implementation.

2. Contract To Sell - The sub-prime mortgage fiasco in the United States will never happen in the Philippines, thanks to Creba's advocacy to use Contract To Sell

(CTS) instead of mortgage origination in documenting installment sales of house-and-lot packages. The current practice allows the transfer of title to the property only upon full payment of the sale price. Under the old practice, the deed of sale with mortgage (similar to the practice in the US), title is transferred upon payment of the down payment, with the balance still to be paid in as long as 20 years. Now that financial institutions, as well as developers, use CTS, delinquencies are effectively addressed by simply canceling the CTS.

3. Crebaland Services and Title Warranty Corp - As a title verification service, Crebaland Services and Title Warranty Corp will prevent incursions by fake title syndicates of unwary victims, cleanse the government's land records of fake titles and thus restore faith in the country's Torrens System

4. Integrated Syndicated Area Development (Isad) program - CREBA conceptualized and packaged this program to help alleviate poverty in the countryside by encouraging private sector investments.

Serrano was recently appointed by House Speaker Jose de Venecia as special adviser to the Committee on Housing and Urban Development.

Romero Federico S. Quimbo

He makes homes affordable

LAWYER ROMERO FEDERICO S. QUIMBO made Pag-IBIG, the government housing bank, big and strong, and more relevant to workers in meeting their housing needs.

He is president and CEO of Pag-IBIG, which now has 6.86 million members. Since 2001, Quimbo has steered the institution into being the key factor in the housing sector's unprecedented level of accomplishments, firmly establishing its role as the main financier of the national shelter program and the single biggest provider of housing finance in the entire country. By 2005, Pag-IBIG had total assets of P178.3 billion, net income of P7.38 billion, housing loans of P14.4 billion, dividends to members of P5.54 billion and Triple A credit rating-the highest among government agencies. Under his watch, the fund was granted the UN Habitat scroll of honor in 2006, the most prestigious international award for exceptional accomplishments in human settlements. Pag-IBIG has become a catalyst in the housing industry.

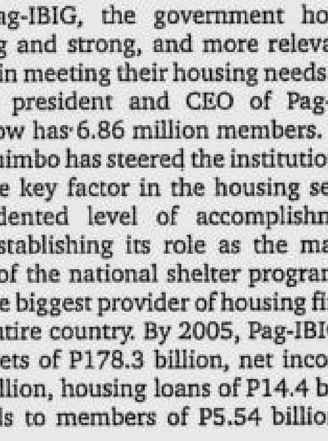
Quimbo convinced the private sector that housing, including low-cost housing, can be a profitable business. His initiatives could be considered revolutionary, particularly the lowering of interest rates on housing loans. At a time when banks were charging double-digit rates on housing loans, Pag-IBIG gradually lowered its rates up to the current 6 percent per year. The Fund also institutionalized long maturities for housing loans -up to 30 years

Quimbo streamlined the Fund's operations, including collection of loan amortizations.

Today, there is stiff competition among banks for housing loans, which are now offered at low interest rates and with long repayment periods. In 2006, Quimbo was named one of The Outstanding Young Men by the Philippine Jaycees and the TOYM Fundation for his excellent work in government service.

Rosemarie Custodio Basa

A leader in real estate advocacy



LEADERSHIP IS A QUALITY ONE CAN demonstrate even if one does not own a huge property or inherited great wealth.

One such person is Visayan lass Rosemarie Custodio Basa, an English major and personnel management expert who is making her mark in the real estate business.

She is chair, president and organizer of the Philippine Real Estate Festival, a director of the Chamber of Real Estate Builders Association (Creba), director and vice president for the Middle East of the Creba International Foundation, board chair of the Creba Social Housing Foundation, and author of the innovative concept, "Isang Daang Bahay Bawat Bayan" - 100 houses for every town. Basa has just mounted the First Philippine Real Estate Festival, which was conceived last July 2007 at the World Trade Center. The exhibit, aimed at overseas Filipinos, showcased the vibrancy of the real estate sector and brought together the industry's major players under the theme "Our World Under One Roof".

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The BREW awardees

The Lakeshore developer

Nestor S. Mangio

ARCHITECT NESTOR S. MANGIO PIOneered in upscale lakeshore development in the Philippines. He got the idea from the United States, Canada and European cities where communities are built around lakes. "Waterfront and lakeshore lots are prime property abroad," he notes, "the places are so verdant and the spaces so wide. There is no reason why Filipinos cannot enjoy in that kind of community." He began developing a 250-hectare property in Mexico town in Pampanga and called it The Lakeshore. It features three lakes, all manmade and the largest of which is ten hectares and built at a cost of P80 million.

He planted the place with 20,000 trees. He sold the concept to Filipinos abroad, conducting roadshows in ten cities in the US. Today, Lakeshore lots are selling like hotcakes. Prices have more than tripled in value. Mangio attributes his success to a number of things - working hard, being sincere in his dealings and honoring his word and commitments, being creative, and being prayerful. Incidentally, he has been commissioned to build the Philippines' tallest and biggest statue of the Virgin Mary. Mangio finished architecture at UST and the coveted advanced management and degree program in real estate at Harvard, where he was voted the model student in a class of 19 people from seven countries, including several billionaires. Mangio overcame poverty to reach his present status.

A dimunitive boy from Palawe, San Fernando, Pampanga, he is the seventh of 11 children - nine boys and two girls. At present, he is the chair of the Nestor S. Mangio Architects, president of N.S. Mangio Construction and Development Corporation, managing director of Nobleman Properties, owner of Hotel Gracelane, chair and CEO of Central Country Estate, chair and president of The Lakeshore Marketing Corp and chair and president of The Lakeshore Country Club.

Rodolfo Valencia

CONGRESSman Rodolfo G. Valencia of Oriental Mindoro believes that housing will be the main driver of the economic turnaround for the Philippines. Encouraged by an emerging new market made up of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), industry players are now set to fulfill their key role to pump-prime the economy and cash in on the upswing of the property market. One of the major players is RGV Real Estate Center Inc, which Valencia founded in 1977.

The RGV Center currently has an impressive portfolio boasting of billion-dollar projects numbering no less than 300. The company operates under a one-stop-shop concept with its complete range of products and services-total response to the needs of property owners, developers, realty practitioners, sellers and buyers. RGV's projects include the Cordova Condominium, Pacific Bank Building, Manila Astral Tower and Yulo Plaza Townhomes in Makati; Chinatown Steel Towers in Binondo; and Valencia Hills in New Manila. Despite its involvement in high-end projects, the RGV Center remains steadfast to its commitment of providing homes to low- and middle-income brackets, especially the OFW families.

The company has successfully handled more than 30,000 units as its direct contribution to the local shelter program involving overseas Filipino markets in Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Brunei and Hong Kong.

Valencia, has always been a realtor prior to joining the political arena. His real estate career began at the age of 16 when he started selling multinational subdivisions and projects. At age 28, he assumed the presidency of the Manila Board of Realtors, the youngest ever to lead the organization.

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Loan Package	Interest Rate	Monthly Amortization*
P300,000	6%	P1,798.65
P500,000	7%	P3,326.51
P750,000	7%	P4,989.77

*covers principal and interest only

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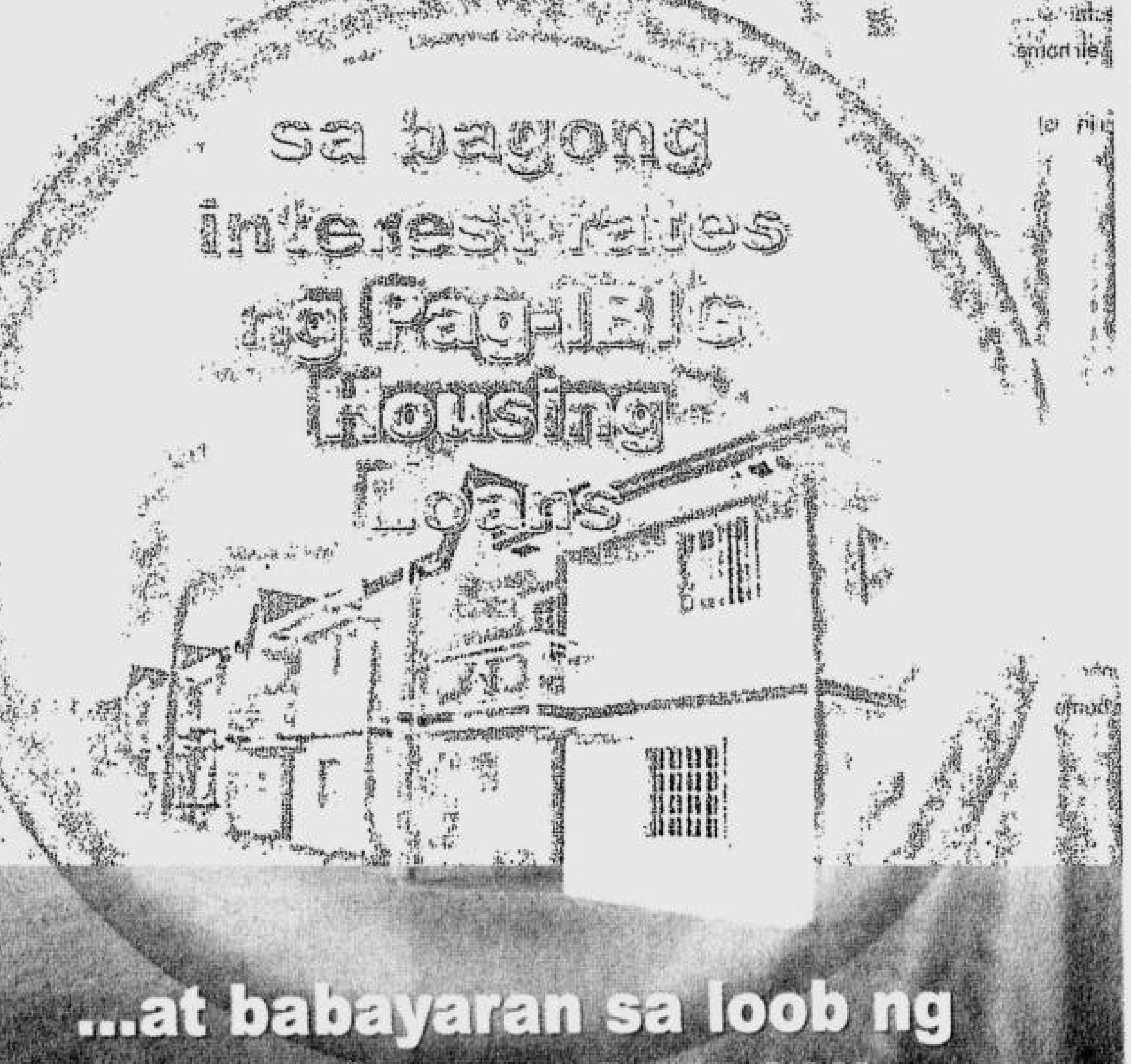
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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Gary Vasquez

The prefab inventor

EDGARDO VAZQUEZ, 55, invented prefabricated concrete housing construction. By so doing, he simplified and brought down the cost of constructing a house and made it affordable to more Filipino working class buyers, even while maintaining the elegance and style of its design. His prefabricated concrete housing technology, well-known as the Vazbuilt System, straddles all income classes-upper, low-cost, and socialized housing. Before the invention of his system, builders were using concrete hollow blocks which were costly, brittle, time-consuming and inefficient to install. His Vazbuilt System is fast replacing the ordinary concrete hollow block system.

With its elegant aesthetics, even a simple low income earner feels like a prince, owning a Vazbuilt Home. Vazbuilt is thus a great equalizer.

The Vazbuilt System has been accepted by top developers.

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They built the Festival Mall

ANDREW AND MERCEDES GOTIANUN built Filinvest in Muntinglupa as the alternative business district and vertical residential village from what used to be the Alabang Stud Farm.

Since 1993, FLI has had over 88 housing and land development projects covering 1,600 hectares - the size of the original pristine Makati, FLI has undertaken themed housing and land development projects, industrial estates, farm estates and resorts.

Filinvest Land expects to remain focused on its core residential real estate development business by pursuing an aggressive growth strategy for its real estate business through the launching of a mixed-use vertical development project in Metro Manila, a condotel in Cebu, a residential resort development in Samal Island, and 10 new affordable and middle-income residential projects as well as through the expansion of its existing townships in 2007.

FLI will soon launch its first master planned mixed-use vertical development project on a 4-hectare prime property along Ortigas Avenue Extension.

FILINVEST:

Building the Filipino Dream

Having a place to stay and be protected from outside elements is a basic necessity. That is why, regardless of social and financial status, owning a home is on top of everyone's wish list. From ordinary people earning regular wages to OFWs earning hard-earned dollars.

For over 50 years, Filinvest Land has fulfilled its commitment in building the Filipino dream. Over 1,500 hectares of land has been transformed mainly into residential communities located in Metro Manila and key cities nationwide. At present, more than 100,000 satisfied families are enjoying their everyday life at our best value neighborhoods that comes complete with exclusive amenities and facilities.

Filinvest also developed innovative communities like the Asenso Village which are intended for budding entrepreneurs. Now they have the convenience of having a home and business under one roof.

The company also expanded its market reach by tapping high growth regional centers. There is an ongoing expansion at North Luzon with the development of Somerset Lane in Tarlac and Hampton Orchards and Claremont in Pampanga as well as West Palms in Puerto Princesa.

Aside from communities, Filinvest has developed township developments like Filinvest East County, Ciudad de Calamba and Timberland Heights where schools, hospitals and business establishments are just a stone throw away from their homes.

Filinvest has also raised the bar for leisure lifestyles with residential resort communities like Laeuna de Taal, Seascapes Resort Town in Mactan, Cebu and Kembali Coast in Samal Island, Davao. High standards of living deserve world-class homes like the premier Brentville International, home of Brent International School.

With all these choices, Filinvest Land continues to live up to its motto – "We Build the Filipino Dream."

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Great news to everyone who's planning on buying a dream home! Filinvest Land has launched two financing schemes that will definitely make owning a home easier and more affordable.

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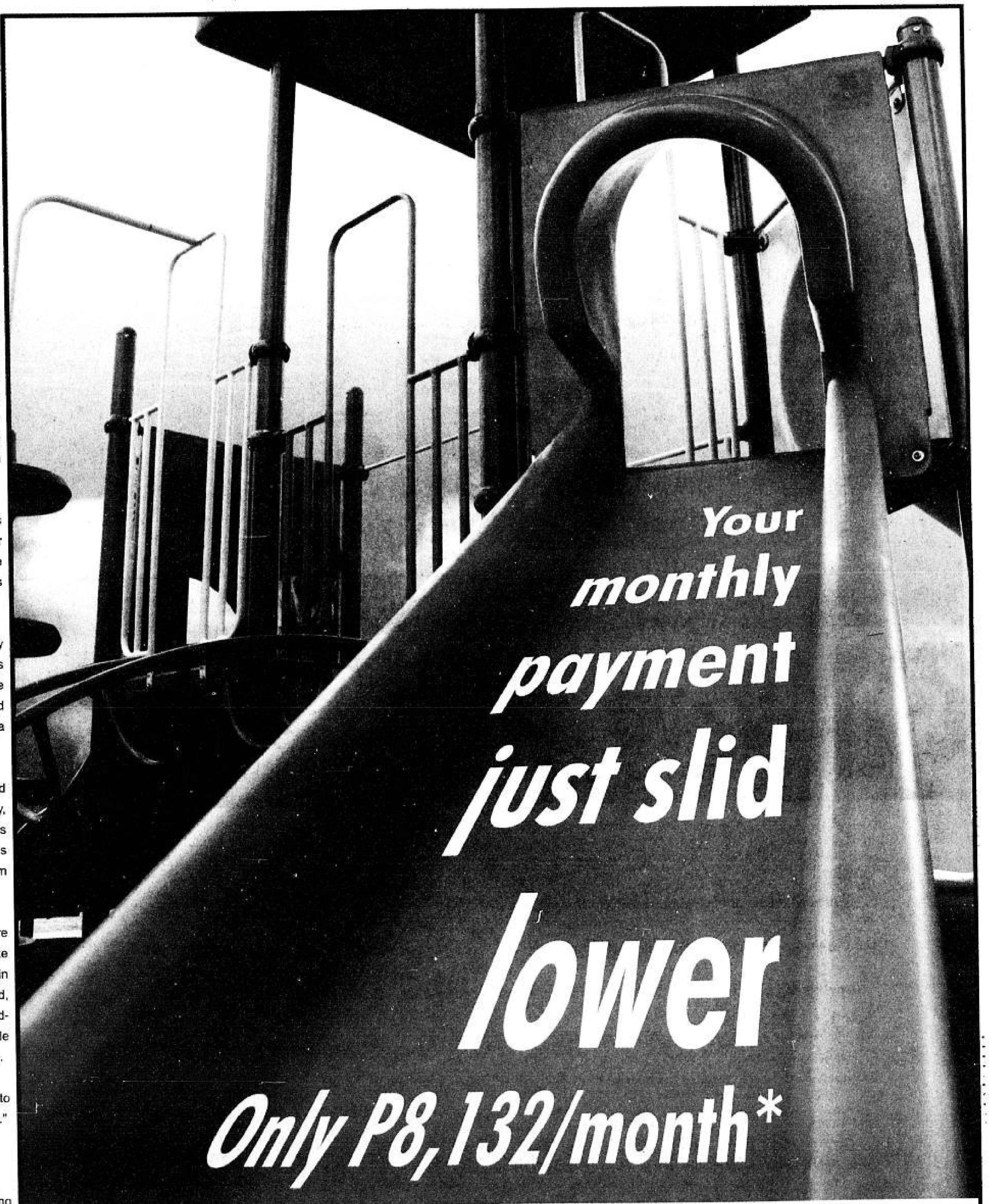

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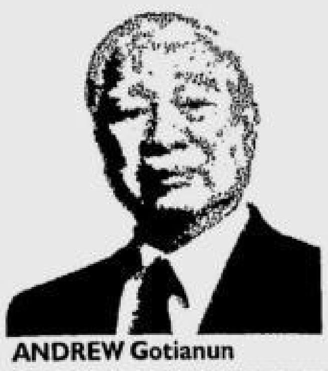

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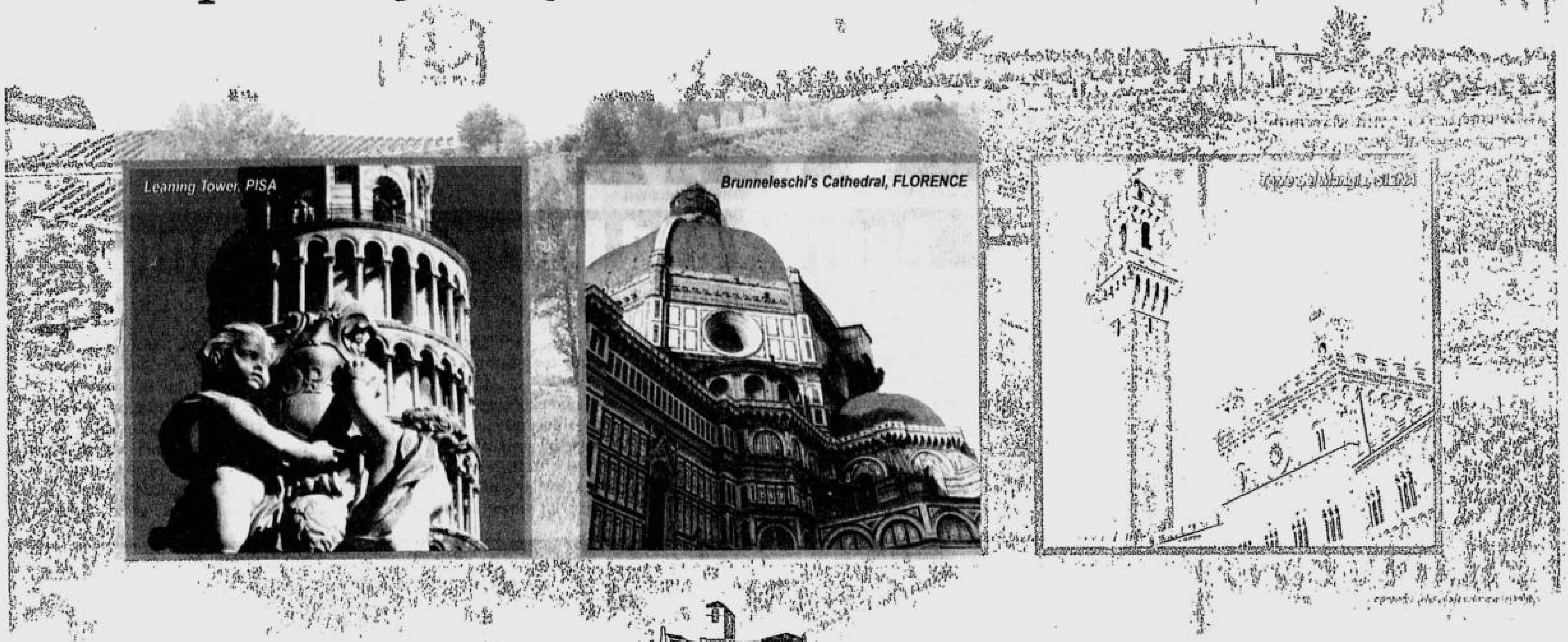
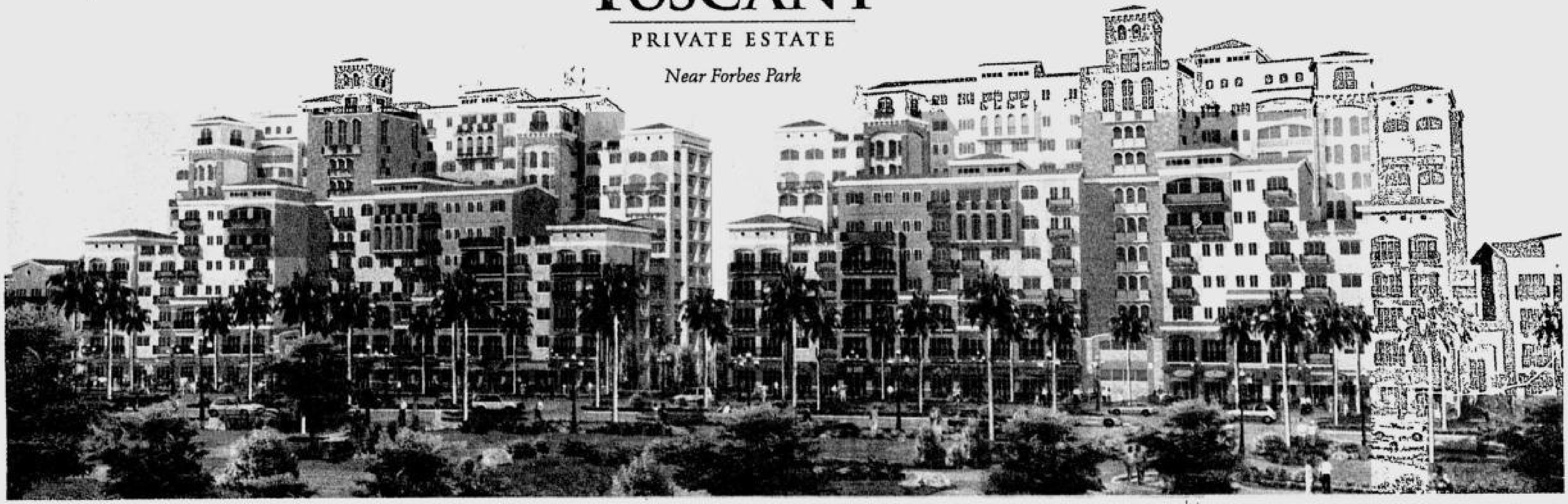

Leaning Tower, PISA
Brunneleschi's Cathedral, FLORENCE

MCKINLEY HILL
TUSCANY
PRIVATE ESTATE
Near Forbes Park



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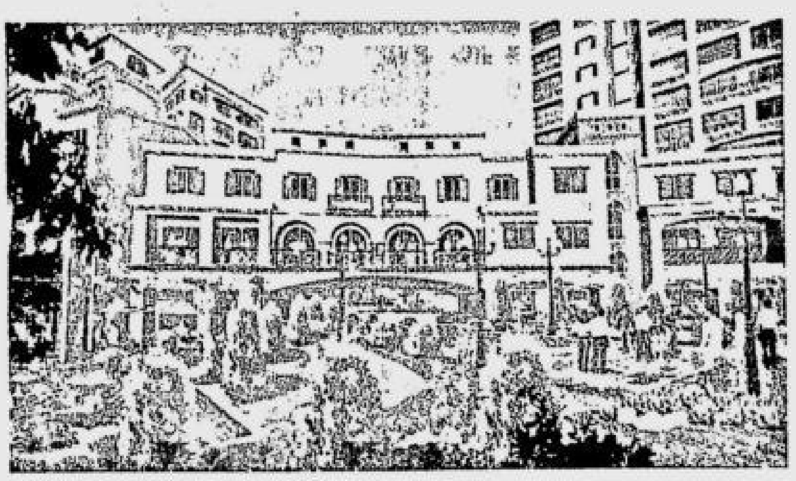

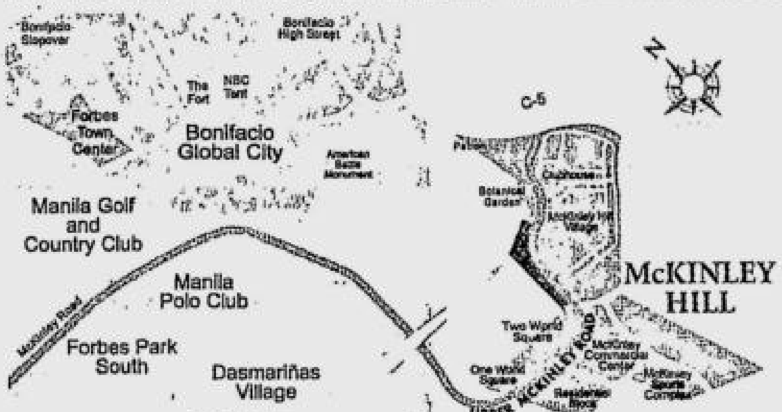
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Clubhouse
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McKINLEY HILL
Two World Square
One World Square
McKinley Commercial Center
McKinley Sports Complex
Residential Block
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